WEDNESDAY
January 10, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Skill Development, Entrepreneurship
and Livelihood (SDEL) Department

Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Direct Benefit Transfer
on the occasion of
National Youth Day and Swami
Vivekananda's Birth Anniversary

Yuva Nidhi

12th January 2024 | Freedom Park, Shivamogga Town

- "Yuvanidhi" scheme provides financial assistance to educated, unemployed youth creating a sense of self-esteem and making them self reliant
- Unemployment allowance is given for a period of 2 years or until getting employment, whichever is earlier

Rs. 3000 for Graduates and Rs. 1500 for Diploma holders

Dr. Sharana Prakash Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood giving information about the Yuvanidhi Scheme

Candidates should be Domicile of Karnataka who have passed Degree / Diploma in the year 2023 and without Govt. / Private jobs for a period of six months

Those who are not self-employed and not pursuing higher education

Documents required for Registration: S.S.L.C., PUC, Degree/Diploma Certificates

For Registration visit : http://sevasindhugs.karnataka.gov.in

Applications can be submitted at Karnataka-One, Bengaluru-One, Grama-One and Bapuji Seva Kendras, free of cost

Help Line: 1800 599 9918

Registered candidates need to compulsorily declare and update their unemployment status every month in Sevasindhu portal. Legal action will be taken against candidates who give false declaration.

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As is enshrined in our Constitution, to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

Published by: Skilll Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood (SDEL) Department

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INDIA partners agree on LS seat-sharing plan

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State remission policies must be looked into

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Sutherland, openers star in series win

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NEARBY

Lokayukta police raid six govt. officials

BENGALURU
The Lokayukta police conducted search and seizure operations on 35 premises linked to six government officials and unearthed assets worth over ₹51 crore. » Page 4

Minutes after getting bail, KRV chief held again

BENGALURU
Minutes after he was released on bail from the central prison on Tuesday, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike president T.A. Narayana Gowda was arrested in a case that dates back to 2017 by the police. » Page 6

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Boeing 737 MAX of Indian airline had a missing part

DGCA says operator discovered that a washer in rudder control system was missing; Boeing ordered checks of all such aircraft last month; U.S. airlines found loose bolts on MAX-9 plug doors

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

An Indian airline discovered that a "washer" in the rudder control system of a Boeing 737 MAX-8 plane was missing after the aircraft maker ordered a global inspection of the MAX family of aircraft last month, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on Tuesday, hours after reports emerged that two U.S carriers, United Airlines and Alaska Airlines, found loose bolts on their MAX-9 plug doors.

MAX-8 and -9 are variants of the Boeing 737 MAX series.

Rectification recommended by Boeing was carried out before clearing the aircraft for flight operations, the DGCA said. It did not name the Indian airline that reported the missing washer. Three Indian airlines – Akasa Air, SpiceJet, and Air India Express – operate 737 MAX-8 planes. Thirty-nine of the 40 MAX-8 in service in India have been inspected. An aircraft remains to be examined.

Scare in the air: Boeing 737 MAX-8 aircraft operated by Akasa Air, SpiceJet and Air India Express have undergone inspections. REUTERS

The Boeing advisory, issued late December, for one-time inspection of 737 MAX planes for possible loose hardware came after one of its airline customers informed it of a missing nut and washer in the "aft rudder quadrant" during a routine maintenance check. A week later, the MAX family of aircraft found itself in yet another safety crisis after a plug-door (non-operational door) on a Boeing 737 MAX-9 plane of Alaska Airlines blew out mid-flight while it was headed to Ontario in California from Portland in Oregon.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board is investigating whether four bolts that were supposed to hold the panel in place were missing when the plane took off. Both airlines have grounded their MAX planes and cancelled hundreds of flights. Alaska has 65 MAX-9 planes and United has 78.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

'Most Indian cities far from clean air target'

Lagging behind

The table shows PM 2.5 levels (annual average) in India's most polluted cities from 2019 to 2023. It remained higher than the acceptable level of 40 micrograms per cubic metre in all the years

AP

Rank in 2023	City	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Delhi	108.4	95.3	107.6	99.5	102
2	Patna	119.6	72.8	76.5	91.3	89.5
3	Faridabad	94.5	87.6	95.6	95.3	87.9
4	Muzaffarpur	108.1	67.4	122.6	85.7	83.6
5	Noida	113.8	97.9	100.8	79.3	83.6

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Centre's ambitious attempt to improve air quality in some of India's most polluted cities suggests that a majority of Indian cities are far from making significant progress. In 49 cities whose particulate matter numbers were consistently available for five years, 27 showed a decline in PM 2.5 – considered the most dangerous grade of pollutant – while only four had met or exceeded the targeted decline, according to an analysis by Respirer Living Sciences and Climate Trends, released early on Wednesday.

The stated goal of the ₹9,631-crore National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is to reduce average particulate matter concentrations 40% by 2026 (compared to 2017) in 131 cities.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Kannada price boards mandatory at petrol stations in State from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Petrol stations in Karnataka will have to mandatorily display the price boards in Kannada too from Wednesday.

Announcing this at a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Union Minister for Petroleum Hardeep Singh Puri said he had issued instructions to oil companies. "It was brought to my notice that petrol pumps in Karnataka are displaying the price boards in just English and Hindi. Hence, I have made it clear that the price display boards should also be there in Kannada from tomorrow [Wednesday] itself," the Union Minister, who is in Karnataka as part of the BJP's Viksit Bharat Yatra, said.

In sync

Armed forces personnel rehearse for the Republic Day Parade during a cold and foggy morning at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Tech firm CEO arrested for murder of her four-year-old son in Goa

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/SHIVAMOGGA

A 39-year-old Bengaluru-based chief executive officer (CEO) of an artificial intelligence (AI) start-up, Suchana Seth, has been arrested for the murder of her four-year-old son at a luxury hotel in Goa.

Suchana Seth, hailing from West Bengal, has been in Bengaluru since 2008 and is now the CEO of Mindful AI Lab, a start-up that was launched in 2020, specialising in AI ethics advisory and audits.

Caught in Hiriyur

Suchana was detained by the Chitradurga police after the cab driver whom she hired in Goa to head towards Bengaluru drove in-

Suchana Seth

According to the police, she had packed her son's body in a suitcase

to the Aimangala police station in Hiriyur taluk on Monday afternoon after being instructed by the Goa police.

Suchana had packed her son's body in a suitcase kept in the boot of the car.

The Goa police have arrested and moved her to Goa for investigation, even as the autopsy on the boy's body was conducted at the Government Hospital in Hiriyur Tuesday evening.

Dr. Kumar Naik, who conducted the autopsy said that the boy could have died about 36 hours ago. "There was swelling in the face and chest portions of the child. He could have been killed by suffocation. A pillow must have been used," he told media persons on Tuesday night. The boy's body was handed over to his father, Venkat Raman, estranged husband of Suchana.

Suchana has reportedly sustained an injury on her wrist, and amid reports that she attempted to end her life as well, the Goa police said the investigation was in its early stages to confirm that.

Divorce proceedings

Superintendent of Police, North Goa, Nidhin Valsan, said that while it was too early to pin down the motive for the crime, Suchana has been upset with the ongoing divorce proceedings with Venkat Raman, an AI developer from Kerala, now based in Indonesia.

"According to her, divorce proceedings in court have ended and she is unhappy with the court order," he quoted her as saying.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 4

CET rescheduled; to be now held on April 18 and 19

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has rescheduled the dates of the Common Entrance Test (CET), which is the gateway for professional courses such as engineering. It will now be conducted on April 18 and 19 instead of April 20 and 21 as scheduled earlier.

Kannada language test

S. Ramya, Executive Director of KEA, stated in a press release on Tuesday that the examination has been advanced, given that NDA examinations are scheduled on April 21. Accordingly, the Kannada language test will be held on April 20 instead of on April 22. Candidates should fill out the application online between January 10 and February 10.

As a reform measure to cut the time taken for physical verification of documents, the KEA has designed the application in the "application-cum-verification" module. This module will remove the need for physical verification of various documents, thus enabling a speedy process.

The students' entries about school, medium of instruction, caste, income, etc., will be verified through the SATS/Revenue Department (RD) web service. The candidates are advised to fill in all the details carefully and upload the necessary documents. This allows for document verification during the submission of the application itself, Ms. Ramya explained.

NEET candidates too

Candidates aspiring for medical, dental, ayurveda, unani, homoeopathy, BPT, BSc, Allied Health Sciences, and Bachelor in Prosthetics and Orthotics courses have also been advised to register in the above-prescribed format for NEET counselling.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

Gollarahatti temple issue: Dalits enter premises in presence of police officers

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A few Dalits and activists on Tuesday entered the Kambada Ranganatha Swamy temple at Gollarahatti of Gerumaradi village of Tarikere taluk, which was closed by the residents of the locality following the entry of a Dalit youth into their habitat.

Maruthi, the Dalit youth from M.C. Halli, who was allegedly assaulted by the locals for entering Gollarahatti on January 1, was among those who offered prayers on the day.

The doors of the temple were opened in the presence of Assistant Commissioner K.G. Kantaraj, Additional Superintendent of Police G. Krishnamurthy, Deputy Superintendent of Police Halamurthy Rao and others. As the local people refused to give the keys to open the temple door, the officers had to break the locks to enter the temple.

As local people at Gollarahatti of Gerumaradi village in Tarikere taluk refused to give the keys to open the Kambada Ranganatha Swamy temple door, officers broke the locks. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Earlier in the day, leaders of Bharatiya Parivartana Sangha, including Hariram and Bhaskar Prasad, held a press conference in Tarikere and condemned the continuing practice of untouchability at Gollarahatti. They staged a protest in front of the taluk office, urging the officers to ensure Dalits enter the temple.

While some offered prayers, others read out the Preamble of the Constitution on the temple premises

The taluk administration later in the day deployed the police at Gollarahatti and made arrangements for the temple entry. As the activists and the officers reached the place, the local people did not come forward to give the keys, resulting in the locks being broken open. Maruthi and others offered prayers. The activists read out the Preamble of the Indian Constitution on the temple premises.

The residents of Gollarahatti had closed down Kambada Ranganatha Swamy and Thimmappa temples in the locality after Martuhi entered the habitat.

He worked as an operator of excavators. He visited the area as part of his work. He was allegedly assaulted by local people. A case has been registered against 15 people. *The Hindu* had reported on the incident on January 5.

‘I have never seen anything better than what Tendulkar, Azharuddin did at Newlands’

The India stars’ 222-run partnership for the sixth wicket after coming together at 58 for five in the 1997 Test at the venue is one of the most spectacular displays of batting of all time and the most cherished memory in the longest format, according to Conrad

CRICKET

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CAPE TOWN

Shukri Conrad has seen it all. He played cricket before and after the apartheid in South Africa.

“Let’s say I played in the White side and yes, I played in the non-White side,” Conrad told *The Hindu*. “And then I was involved when unity came along. A little bit of everything. So yes, I have seen history.”

At the moment he is pleased that India couldn’t make history when he is the coach of the South African Test side. India could not conquer the final frontier – a Test series win in the Rainbow Nation.

The two-match series ended in a 1-1 draw. He is disappointed that there were only two Tests in the series.

“I would have loved to play India in a five-match series here in South Africa; that’s like a dream,” he said. “These are two quality sides and fans from both India and South Africa would love it too. And I would love to go to India and play five matches.”

But South Africa isn’t scheduled to play a lot of Test cricket. “Our players want to play test cricket, and if we had the resources that India, England and Australia have, we would play more Test matches,” he said.

Conrad loves Test cricket. His most cherished memory about Test cricket is watching Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin putting up one of the most spectacular displays of batting of all time, as they added 222 after coming together at 58 for five at Newlands, his home ground, way back in 1996-97.

“I sat in the Railway Stand there and I watched it, and I said to myself, I don't think I would see anything better,” Conrad recalled. “This ground has not seen anything better. Neither have I.”

Though he absolutely enjoyed watching that masterly innings from Tendulkar (169), he rates Virat Kohli as the greatest batter he has ever seen. “I remember chatting to Rahul Dravid about it a few years ago,” he said. “I told Dravid I cannot believe that Sachin Tendulkar was better than Kohli. And he said to me, ‘Look, Sachin stays the master, Virat is great’.”

What about the coaches in cricket?

> I told Dravid I cannot believe that Sachin Tendulkar was better than Kohli. And he said to me, ‘Look, Sachin stays the master, Virat is great’

“Graham Ford got me involved many years ago and I had a stint with him as an assistant coach,” Conrad said. “I really admired Graham in terms of how he went about things. I knew the late Bob Woolmer reasonably well, he was a good coach, and he had a little bit to do with my cricket in some capacity.

“The late Hylton Ackerman, I thought, was a cricket brain second to none. So I always made sure that I kind of aligned myself with good coaches that I could learn from. But I think the biggest thing for me as a coach is that you have got to understand that you can learn from your players as well, you know. The coach being the only voice is long gone.”

Beckenbauer — a ‘libero’ who was phenomenal in reading the game

FOOTBALL

Associated Press
BERLIN

By taking a step back, Franz Beckenbauer put himself a step ahead.

The “libero” – taken from the Italian word for “free” and describing a player who had a covering role behind a defensive line – was not an entirely new concept to football by the late 1960s and early 1970s.

It was just that nobody who’d played in that rare position had ever done so with the vision, grace and ability on the ball demonstrated by Beckenbauer, the football revolutionary who died on Monday at the age of 78.

A pioneer

The epitome of elegance in that iconic white Germany jersey with No. 5 on the back, Beckenbauer was regarded as a pioneer because he brought an attacking element to the deepest outfield position on the pitch.

Whether it was surging out from the back with the ball at his feet or picking out a teammate with a long, precise pass forward, he was the guy who started his team’s attacks – whether it was for Bayern Munich, which he helped become a force in the German game in the mid-1960s, or his national team, with which he won the World Cup in 1974.

“As a kid he was the first foreign footballer I’d ever heard of,” former England and Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

Big impact

“That’s because if any player tried to play out from the back whether at pro or amateur level, I would hear, He thinks he’s Beckenbauer.’ “That just shows the impact he had on the world game and how he helped change it.”

Beckenbauer actually started out as a central midfielder, the position he played in the 1966 World Cup final when West Germany lost to England, and would still play there at times later in his career. But it was as a libero – or a “sweeper,” as some call it – that he really became a phenomenon through the way he read the game and surveyed the scene ahead of him.

Fluid role

“He was essentially a midfielder playing at the back and he made it look so easy,” Paul Lambert, a Champions League winner with Borussia Dortmund in 1997, told the BBC.

“He could have kept his suit on most of the time.” Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said Beckenbauer’s interpretation of the libero role changed the game, epitomising perhaps the cultural liberalism and spirit of freedom pervading through Europe in the 1960s.

“His friendship with the ball made him free,” Nagelsmann said.

“Franz Beckenbauer could float across the grass.” Whereas the modern-day sweeper is typically the middle central defender in a back three, Beckenbauer was one of two nominal centre-backs used as a libero behind a three-man line for Bayern and would pick his moment to step out and bolster the midfield.

That particular role has disappeared from the game, though lives on in ball-playing centre-backs in a back four such as David Alaba at Real Madrid or, a few years back, Rio Ferdinand at Manchester United.

Such was his excellence that *Der Kaiser* – as Beckenbauer was known – was a two-time *Ballon d’Or* winner (1972 and 1976) and finished second in the voting in 1974 and 1975, amid an era he bestrode while winning three straight German league titles (1972-74) and three straight European Cups (1974-76).

His most famous goal might be a free kick he scored in that period with the outside of his right boot for Bayern at Duisburg in March 1974, an example of the class and impudence of a player who could do things defenders weren’t supposed to even attempt.

Of all the tributes to Beckenbauer that poured in Monday, few were as fitting as that of UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin.

“His unparalleled versatility, graceful transitions between defence and midfield, impeccable ball control, and visionary style reshaped the way football was played in his era,” Ceferin said.

Chance for India to test itself against quality sides: Chhetri

Press Trust of India
DOHA

Talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri has no qualms in admitting that India’s group opponents Australia and Uzbekistan are notches above his side in quality but playing against them in the upcoming Asian Cup will be a marker to test the country’s level of the game.

Drawn in Group B in the continental showpiece, India faces Australia on January 13, before taking on Uzbekistan (Jan. 18) and Syria (Jan. 23). The top two teams from each group along with four best third-place sides from across six groups will progress to the knockout stage.

Chhetri, who is playing in his third Asian Cup, was a part of the team that lost 0-4 to Australia in the 2011 edition, said the team is better prepared now

“It’s a massive tournament for us, purely because we get to rub shoulders with the best in Asia. Teams like Australia and Uzbekistan are probably of the World Cup level, so you can test yourself against them,” Chhetri said.

Play your best

“What is sure is that we have improved in the last seven-eight years. But then you play them and you see how far you are, and how the tempo of the game is. It’s just important to play your best, and generally it’s a good marker for the nation to test where we are.”

The 39-year-old Chhetri, who is playing in his third Asian Cup, was a part of the team that lost 0-4 to Australia in the group stage of the 2011 edition which was also played here, said the team is better prepared now.

“We did not have much knowledge of the Australian team back then. Not when compared to the minute details we have now. We’ve watched their friendlies against Palestine and Bahrain, we know which leagues their players are in, and individual clips on them,” said Chhetri.

“With this familiarity, the fear factor goes out. I must admit, of course, that they are extremely good. They’re a couple of levels above than what we play in the ISL, but at least we know what we’re up against.” The important thing is not to think too far ahead but to take game-by-game, said Chhetri, who also led the team in the 2019 edition in the UAE where India failed to get past the group stage.

“We will take it one game at a time and try to give a good account of ourselves. We will prepare as much as possible, gather as much knowledge as we possibly can, and then act according to that,” he said.

Different outlook

While Chhetri has scored four goals in his six matches at the Asian Cup, this edition will be an altogether different one for him. Not only is India No. 11 older and wiser, but he also became a father last year.

That may not have changed his perspective on football, but it certainly has changed his outlook on life.

“I’m so much happier and calmer now. It’s like I’ve had a different responsibility and purpose ever since I became a father, it’s something that I can’t explain. I had a chat with my wife about the Asian Cup and the World Cup Qualifiers against Afghanistan later, and it seemed to her that I was taking too much pressure with these matches.

“My wife told me to just go out there and enjoy. That’s the way I want to play, whatever time I have left with the national team.” Chhetri has played 145 matches for India since making his debut in 2005 against Pakistan in Quetta and has scored 93 goals so far.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli , Bengaluru - 560 038. Ph: 080-25191039
e-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

Bid No.: BMRCL/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT10 Date: 10.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Maintenance Contract for Artificer works (Petty Repairs) at National College (NLC), Lal Bagh (LGBH), South End Circle (SECE), & Jayanagar (JYN) Metro Stations in Reach 4 of Line-2".** The works details can be obtained from the procurement website. The tender documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 10.02.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Director (O & M)

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Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commssionerate of Agriculture Seshadri Road, Bangalore-560001

No. SFS-5/Seed RfP/Kharif 2024/2023-24 Date: 04-01-2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION

Request for Proposal are invited from the reputed Seed Producing agencies or their authorized agencies for supply of Certified/TL seeds during Kharif 2024 in respect of Paddy, Maize, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Minor Millets, Redgram, Blackgram, Greengram, Cowpea, Groundnut, Soybean, Castor, Cotton and Sunflower. This Request for Proposal is called for sourcing the required quantities of seeds on consignment basis.

The interested supplier can download the Request for Proposal Document through e-Procurement website free of cost. The seed supplier intending to participate in this empanelment have to register at e-Procurement Cell, Centre for e-Governance, 4th Floor, Sri Arvinda Bhavan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and obtain the DSC key or e-token.

The Request for Proposal documents are available from - **03-01-2024** on e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Request for Proposal No. AD/2023-24/IND0020. The last date for submission of this Request for Proposal through online is **02-02-2024** up to **5.00** P.M.

Technical bid will be opened through online at **11.00 A.M. on 05-02-2024** at Sambhrama Hall, Department of Agriculture, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/2955/Zen/2023-24 **Director of Agriculture**

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement portal only)(Two Cover System)

Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for (1) No. KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT901/CALL-4, Dated: 06.01.2024 for **Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of AMF relay panel, control wiring & Engine rewiring of 500KVA, Cummins make, DG-5 along with Engine Nozzle, PT pump & Turbo Charger calibration.** EMD: **Rs. 24,550/-.** (2) No. KPCL/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT952/CALL-2, Dated: 06.01.2024 for **Major Overhauling of 625KVA, Unit-4 DG set.** EMD: **Rs. 46,681/-.** (3) No. KPCL/2023-24/PM/WORK_INDENT1014, Dated: 06.01.2024 for **Restoration of Deluge valve housings and painting of Deluge valve housings, hydrant fire water lines in RTPS plant.** Approx. amount put to tender: **Rs. 10,91,000/-.** EMD: **Rs. 27,500/-.** (4) No. KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT1086, Dated 05.01.2024 for **Providing, Dismantling, Erecting and Commissioning of Perforated plates, Air Slide fabric padding, Bottom plates etc., of ALV's of Unit# 3&4.** Last date & time for online submission of tenders: **20.01.2024, 17.30 hrs for Sl.No. (1) & (2), 15.01.2024 up to 17.30 hrs for SlNo. (3) and 13.01.2024 up to 15.30 hrs for Sl.No. (4).** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer(ODY), Mobile No.: 9449599139, e-mail: eeodyrtps@gmail.com** for Sl.No. (1)& (2), **Executive Engineer(Safety)RTPS, Mobile No.: 9480830634** for Sl.No. (3), **Executive Engineer(AHP-1), Ph. No.: 08532-246125, Mobile No.: 9449596544** for Sl.No. (4), **RTPS,** KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District, Karnataka.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: SEE(W&M)/HSN/EE(O)/DCA/AEE-2/WT-42A/2023-24/5880-84 Date: 08.01.2024

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KPPP MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids on Total turnkey basis under **Bid Enquiry No:** KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2023-24/08. **Work indent No:** KPTCL/2023-24/TL/WORK_INDENT477 for The work of Shifting 220kV Chikkamagaluru Receiving station load from 220kV M2 to 220kV M1 Line, which is transmitting from 220kV MRS Shivamogga to Hassan (PGCIL) line by duly providing one number of 220kV MC tower, one number of 220kV DC tower and dismantling two numbers of existing 220kV DC towers in the existing 220kV M1 and M2 corridor near Javagal village limits in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka State on Total Turnkey Basis including Supply of all Materials/Equipments and Erection (including Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 11.00 AM on 10.01.2024.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer (Elec.,) Tr.(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573 201, Ph: 08172-250765, Mobile No.: 9448365055.

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)
acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC -EOT 001 Trust
Encore ARC Corporate Office Address: 5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana

NOTICE OF SALE

EARC/22-23/50/HE/01 Date: 09.01.2024

1. M/s. Hamza Enterprises No.671, Nagawar Thanisandra, Main Road, SRK Nagar, Bangalore – 560077.	**2. Mr.Mohamed Nizam,** No.44, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross Tuba Layout, Saraipaya Thanisandra, Near Balaji APTM, Bangalore – 560077.
3. Mr.Mohamed Nizam, Hotel Lucknow Durbar (Hotel Muskan) No.59, 9th Manin Road, College Road, Opp Indian Academy, Pre-University, HBR Layout, 4th Block, Hennur Gardens, Bengaluru – 560 043	**4. Mr.Mainaj Khatoon,** No.44, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross Tuba Layout, Saraipaya Thanisandra, Near Balaji APTM, Bangalore – 560077.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sub: Notice under Section 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to Borrowers for sale/e-auction of immovable secured assets in the accounts of 1.M/s. Hamza Enterprises, 2. Mr. Mohamed Nizam and 3. Mr. Mainaj Khatoon ("Borrowers") possession of which has been taken over under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act, 2002") read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules")

As you are aware that pursuant to the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd. ("Encore ARC") has acquired all rights, title and interests with regard to the financial assistance granted to the Borrowers by Bajaj Finance Ltd ("Bank") along with all underlying securities vide an Assignment Agreement dated **29.12.2020.-**

Prior to the acquisition of the financial assistance by Encore ARC, Bajaj Finance Ltd. had issued notice under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 on **24-09-2020** advising you to pay the dues as mentioned therein. As you have failed & neglected to pay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice issued under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC took over the possession of the immovable secured assets, as per the description given below on **11-10-2022.**

In view of above, we hereby give you notice of 30 days under Rule 8 (6) of Rules that the Authorized Officer of Encore ARC, after expiry of said notice period, will be selling the below described immovable properties mortgaged to Bajaj Finance Ltd. to secure the outstanding dues under the loan accounts since assigned to Encore ARC (Secured Creditor) as stated above, through e-auction after issuing public notice of the same pursuant to the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rules, for recovery of outstanding dues of **Rs.78,53,582/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Two Only) as on 30-09-2023 together with further interest from 01-10-2023** at contractual rate till recovery and other costs, charges etc due to the Encore ARC (Secured creditor), from Borrowers viz. **1.M/s. Hamza Enterprises, 2. Mr. Mohamed Nizam and 3. Mr. Mainaj Khatoon.**

The description of the property and the details of Reserve Price for the Secured Assets, Earnest Money Deposit, and Minimum Increment Amount in Bidding Process are as under:

Item Sr No.	Name of Account (s)	Description of Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Minimum Increment Amount in Bidding Process (In Rs.)
1.	**M/s. Hamza Enterprises, Mr Mohamed Nizam & Mr Mainaj Khatoon**	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.43, Katha No. 446/1052/46/43, Old Byatarayanapura C.M.C Katha No. 1052, Property No. 46, situated at Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. This property comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No. 24, Bangalore. Measuring East to West 30 Feet, North to South 25 Feet, in all total measuring 750 sq. ft. and bounded on the: East by : Private Property, West by : Road, North by : Private Property, South by : Private Property. The schedule property consists of Six squares of R.C.C roofed house on the Ground Floor and Six Squares of R.C.C roofed house on the First Floor, constructed with cement and brick walls, doors and windows made out of home wood, marble flooring and with all other civic amenities	Rs. 68,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakhs Only)	Rs. 6,80,000/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only)	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)

The e-auction sale of Secured Assets, which are under constructive possession of Encore ARC after said assignment, is on **"as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "no recourse"** basis for and on behalf of the Secured Creditor viz. Encore ARC.

The Public Notice of e-Auction will be published in the newspapers after the expiry of period of 30 days of this notice, as per proviso to Rule 8 (6) read with Rule 9 (1) of Rules. Attention of all interested parties is also invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of SARFAESI Act, 2002 regarding time available to redeem the secured assets.

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale will also be uploaded on Encore ARC's website i.e. **https://www.encorearc.com and https://bankeauctions.com as per Rule 9 (7) of Rules, simultaneously with the publication of e-Auction notice.**

You / interested bidders may contact Authorised officer of Encore ARC **Mr.B.M.Nagaraju Mobile No.89399 56230 , Mr. K.Nagendran on mobile no. No. 91762 91717 and Mr. Sabari Sundar on mobile no. 7904918124 for any further information / query.**

Yours faithfully
Date: 09.01.2024 B M Nagaraju, Authorised Officer
Place: Bangalore Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMED Alemulla Mohammed Ekbal, R/at No.59, 3rd Floor, J P Nagar, 3rd Block, Avalahalli, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my name from Mohammed Alemulla Mohammed Ekbal to Mohammed Ekbal vide affidavit dated 05/01/2024 before Notary M Rajendra, Bangalore.

I, VARIS Ali, R/at No. 31, 2nd Cross, Thanisandra Main Road, Vidya Sagar Layout, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name from Varis Ali to Mohammed Waris Razvi vide affidavit dated 05/01/2024 before Notary M. Rajendra, Bangalore.

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DOCTORS NEEDED for Multi–Speciality Hospital in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Pediatrician, Anaesthetist, Laparoscopic Surgeon. Min 2 yr exp. Attractive pay with free housing. Married doctor couples preferred. drvrajasekar@gmail.com 9500043401

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CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY
ACCOUNTANCY & ECONOMICS
Min. 5 years experience
TGT - ENGLISH, HINDI,MATHS,TAMIL
SCIENCE & SOCIAL SCIENCE
Min. 3 years experience
PRT - ENGLISH, MATHS, SCIENCE & SOCIAL SCIENCE
Min. 3 years experience
SWIMMING COACH (Male & Female)
NTT - MONTESSORI / NURSERY TRAINED TEACHERS
RECEPTIONIST - FEMALE
3 years experience and fluency in English is must
SAGAR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (CBSE)
Perundurai, Erode - 638052, T.N.
Web : www.sagarschool.edu.in
Mail Id : admin@sagarschool.edu.in
Contact No : 98421 22499, 98423 22499

PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, K Tirupalaiah, r/at No.8, NTC layout, Singapura, Bengaluru North, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097, decalre that in my son's T.Ravi Teja, transfer certificate issued by Air Force School, my name is wrongly mentioned as K.Thirupalaiah instead of K.Tirupalaiah vide affidavit dtd 09.01.2024 sworn before Notary P.Anuradha, Bengaluru

LOST & FOUND

Lost and found name: Akash Kori Missing document: Passport, 10th,12th and College Mark Sheet, Aadhar, Driving License etc. date of loss: 20/12/2023 location of loss : Marathalli Contact name : Akash Kori, Email: akori2029@gmail.com, Mobile: 8150970901, your co operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIVAKSHI Mishra, legally wedded spouse of Amit Kumar Mishra, residing at P-89/24, Akash Vihar, Marathahalli, Bengaluru 560037, have changed my name from Shivakshi Mishra to Shivankshi Mishra vide affidavit dated 08.01.2024 before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GOWRAMMA, D/o. Narasimha Murthy, residing at #774, near Thoti Hola, Navaji Bore, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District 562117, Karnataka State, today camping at bengaluru, have changed my name to Tasmiya vide affidavit dated 09.01.2024 before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru

I, MAHABOOB, R/at No.8, R K Garden, Umar Farooq Masjid Road, Neelasandra, Bangalore-560047, have changed my name from Mahaboob to G Mahaboob vide affidavit dated 05/01/2024 before Notary M Rajendra, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE VELLORE VELLORE DISTRICT, TAMILNADU.

MCop No. 83/21

A.Prabhakaran ...Petitioner
-Vs-
Respondent-1:
1.Mr. Chidanand Mahadev Biradar owner of Accident Vehicle Tata Motors 1109 Goods Carrier Vehicle Bearing No. KA-23-A-3591, S/o Mahadev Irakonda Biradar residing at Gyang Bavadi Ward No.1 of Vijayapur Bijapur, Karnataka - 586101.

NOTICE

Please take Notice that the Vehicle belongs to you the Accident Vehicle Tata motors 1109 Goods Carrier Vehicle Bearing No. KA-23-A-3591 involved in road traffic Accident in the above Case Mcop No.83/2021 and posted for your presence in Person or through your Counsel on 28/02/2024 at 10.00 am and make your objection if any. If you fail to do so the matter will be decided ex-parte.

S.SURESH KANNAN, B.B.A., LL.B., Advocate, No.24, "A" Block, C.S.I. Building, (Eye Hospital Stopping) Arni Road, Vellore District - 632001, Tamil Nadu. Cell: 99948 31335

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT NO.1 RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI - 1

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.C6/007/2024/T dt.10.01.2024

Notice for e-Tender Cum e-Auction for allotment of areas situated at Chennai Port, inside the custom bound area, for the purpose of Handling Liquid Bulk Cargo and its allied activities, by erecting temporary tank farm structures for the operational needs, for a period of 5 years on Annual Licence basis in as is where is condition without renewal option, under two cover system from **10.01.2024** to **09.02.2024.**

For further details visit Ch.P.A. website **www.chennaiport.gov.in** and **www.eprocure.gov.in**

TRAFFIC MANAGER

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph: 2365678, 2365415

e-TENDER NOTICE (Re-Tender)

No. Capt/39/2023-M1(MTL) 04.01.2024

C-apt invites Online bids vide Tender No: 179/23-24/MTL (e-tender id **2024_CAPT_639746_1**) from reputed manufacturers / authorized dealers for the supply and installation of **a Colour Web Offset Printing Machine.**

For detailed information log on to: Website: **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.captkerala.com**

Sd/-MD, C-apt

नगरसभा कार्यालय होसकोटे

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ–562114
ದೂ: 080–27931221 ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 080–27931759
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂ: ನಸಹೊ/ಆ.ಶಾ/ಘವನಿ/ಸಿಆರ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್–5/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.01.2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್–1, 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಮುಕ್ತ ನಿಧಿ 2023–24 ರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರಮ. ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2023-24/IND1229	98.80	1,98,000/–
2	DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT9900	5.00	12,500/–

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ವಿವರಗಳು:– (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17.01.2024 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.01.2024 ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22.01.2024 ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** (5) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರಾ/2964/ಸ್ವ್ಯಾ/2023–24

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public are hereby notified that my client is intending to purchase the herein scheduled property from one Sri. K. Shanthappa, S/o. Late Sri. Kempegowda, Smt. Shanthamma, W/o. Sri.K Shanthappa, Smt. Shiplashree K.S., D/o. Sri. K. Shanthappa, and W/o. Sri. Harishkumar, Smt. Sukanya D., W/o. Late Sri. Chandregowda, Ms. Anusha, D/o. Late Sri. Chandregowda and Ms. Monisha, D/o. Late Sri. Chandregowda, all permanently at Mudugurki Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and any other person having any objection therefor, may write to me, the undersigned within 7 days hereof, along with the copies of all the documents being relied upon, failing which, my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property and any claims thereafter shall not affect the absolute title and possession of my client.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Agricultural Land bearing Sy. No. 57/1 measuring 12 Guntas (in the name of Smt. D.Sukanya), Sy. No. 57/7 measuring 10 Guntas (in the name of Sri. K. Shanthappa & Smt. Shanthamma) and Sy. No. 57/8, measuring 10 Guntas, (in the name of Smt. Shilpashree K.S.) and in all 32 Guntas, they being situated adjacent to one another and forming a composite property, situated at Mudugurki Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, the said composite land being bounded on the; **East by :**N.H. 7, **West by:** Land bearing Sy. No.57/2 belonging to Smt. Nanjamma, W/o. Sri. Bachappa, **North by:** Land bearing Sy. No.57/6 belonging to Sri. Ramesh, S/o. Sri. K. Shanthappa, **South by :** Land bearing Sy. No.60 and 58.

K. JAYARAM
Advocate and Legal Consultant,
No.512, III Floor, 'PRABHAT,
8, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560 012 Phone: 080-23 460 460 (5 Lines)
Website: http://kea.kar.nic.in

No. ED/KEA/ADMN/CR-09/2023-24 **Date: 09.01.2024**

NOTIFICATION

ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL COURSES IN THE STATE OF KARNATAKA FOR THE YEAR - 2024

1. As per Rule 3, Rule 6(3) & Rule 7 of Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules 2006 (Amendments) and pursuant to the directions of the Government, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is inviting applications from the eligible Karnataka candidates for ***"Common Entrance Test-2024"*** for the purpose of determining the eligibility / merit, for admission to the First year or First semester of full time courses for Government share of seats in Engineering, Technology, Naturopathy & Yoga, B. Pharma, 2nd year B.Pharma and Pharma-D, Agriculture courses (Farm Science), Veterinary and B.Sc. (Nursing) courses, in Government / University / Private Aided / Private Un-Aided Professional Educational Institutions in the State of Karnataka for the academic year 2024-25 as per the seat matrix to be notified by Government.
2. In order to become eligible to obtain admission through KEA to the above mentioned professional courses, a candidate must register for ***CET-2024,*** fill the application through online, pay the application fees, download the admission ticket and appear for the Common Entrance Test-2024 conducted by KEA, Bangalore. There will be no physical verification as this is application-cum-verification module. The candidates are advised to fill all the details carefully and upload the necessary documents.

COMPULSORY: Application is common to the seat allotment of all professional courses viz., Engineering, Architecture, Naturopathy & Yoga, Veterinary, B. Pharma, 2nd year B.Pharma and Pharma-D, Farm Science courses [B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, B.Sc. (Hons.) Sericulture etc.,], and B.Sc. (Nursing), Medical, Dental, Ayurveda, Unani, Homoeopathy, B.P.T., B.Sc. Allied Health Sciences, BPO courses. Candidates should also mandatorily register themselves for CET-2024, fill the application through online and pay the application fees. Please note that for registration to these courses, portal will not be enabled again. ***After UGNEET 2024 results are announced, already registered candidates with KEA will be provided interface to enter their NEET score and Roll Number.***

3. For admission to ***Medical or Dental or Ayurveda or Unani or Homoeopathy*** courses, Karnataka and non-Karnataka candidates must compulsorily register and get qualified in ***UGNEET – 2024*** (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) exam conducted by National Testing Agency. But for admissions through KEA, the candidates have to compulsorily register, submit the application and pay the fees for CET-2024.
4. For admission to ***Architecture*** course, candidates should appear and get qualified in ***NATA-2024*** (National Aptitude Test in Architecture) conducted by the Council of Architecture. But for admissions through KEA, the candidates have to compulsorily register, submit the application and pay the fees for CET-2024.
5. As per Government order No. MED 51 RGU 2023 dated 13-04-2023 for admission to B.Sc. (Nursing) courses, Karnataka and non-Karnataka candidates have to appear for Common Entrance Test conducted by KEA. **The non-Karnataka candidates will not be eligible for admission to engineering stream courses through KEA and they will also be not eligible for reservation.**
6. For admission to ***B.P.T., B.Sc. Allied Health Sciences, BPO courses,*** Karnataka candidates have to compulsorily register, submit the application and pay the fees for CET-2024, but candidates need not appear for ***CET-2024.***

Before registering through online for admission to any Professional courses in the state of Karnataka, applicants are hereby informed to read the Information Bulletin and understand the eligibility conditions, classification of seats (different types of category of seats) and eligibility to claim such seats.

Eligibility: As per Rule 5(1) of Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules 2006 (Amendments), No candidate shall be eligible for admission to Government Seats unless he is a citizen of India and satisfies any one of the eligibility conditions specified therein. The candidates who do not satisfy any of the Clauses / Eligibility Criteria are not eligible for admission to professional courses under Government quota seats through KEA. Eligibility for OCI / PIO candidates for Government seats shall be as per the directions of the Government.

7. UGCET-2024-Information Bulletin consisting of details about mode of submission of application through online, eligibility clauses, academic eligibility criteria etc will be hosted on the KEA Website for the information of the candidates. Candidates can download the same from KEA Website. Candidates have to apply online for admission to various Professional Courses through KEA.
8. **Schedule for online application – payment of fees.**

I.	Commencement of Registration and filling of Application Online for CET-2024	**From 11.00 am on 10-01-2024**
ii.	Last date to fill the application online	**10-02-2024 up to 11.59 pm**
Iii.	Last date to pay the application fees- online	**14-02-2024**
iv.	Downloading of Admission Tickets for CET-2024	**From 11.00 am onwards on 07-04-2024**

AGRICULTURIST QUOTA - Schedule for Verification of documents and time table for Practical examination will be published on the KEA Website in due course.

Common Entrance Test – 2024 Time Table

Date	Day	Timings	Subject	Marks
18-04-2024	Thursday	10.30 am – 11.50 am	Biology	60
		02.30 pm – 03.50 pm	Mathematics	60
19-04-2024	Friday	10.30 am – 11.50 am	Physics	60
		02.30 pm – 03.50 pm	Chemistry	60
Kannada Language Test FOR HORANADU AND GADINADU KANNADIGA CANDIDATES at Bengaluru, Bidar, Belagavi, Ballary, Bijapura, Mangalore Districts only				
20-04-2024	**Saturday**	11.30 am to 12.30 pm	4th Standard level	50

NOTE:

1. The question papers of the Common Entrance Test-2024 will be based on the First and Second PUC syllabi prescribed by the Department of Pre-University Education of Karnataka State.
2. **ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CANDIDATE CET-2024:** Eligibility of the candidates is as per rule 15 (5) of CET-2006 Admission Rules and MCC directions.
3. Academic Eligibility / admissions to Colleges/ Seat Allotments made to and by the colleges shall be subject to rules /conditions specified from time to time / approval by MCI, DCI, AICTE, COA, NCISM, NCH, PCI, Government, University, Apex Bodies, etc.
4. If it is found that, if a candidate has filled multiple application then such candidate's candidature will be liable for rejection.
5. Candidates are deemed to have read, agreed and accepted the Information Bulletin and the terms and conditions in the Information Bulletin for UGCET-2024 on completing the online submission of application form.
6. *Candidates can clarify their doubts regarding filling of online application at their respective colleges in Karnataka from the college trainers.*

Sd/-
(S. Ramya IAS),
Executive Director.

DIPR/CP/2958/2023-24

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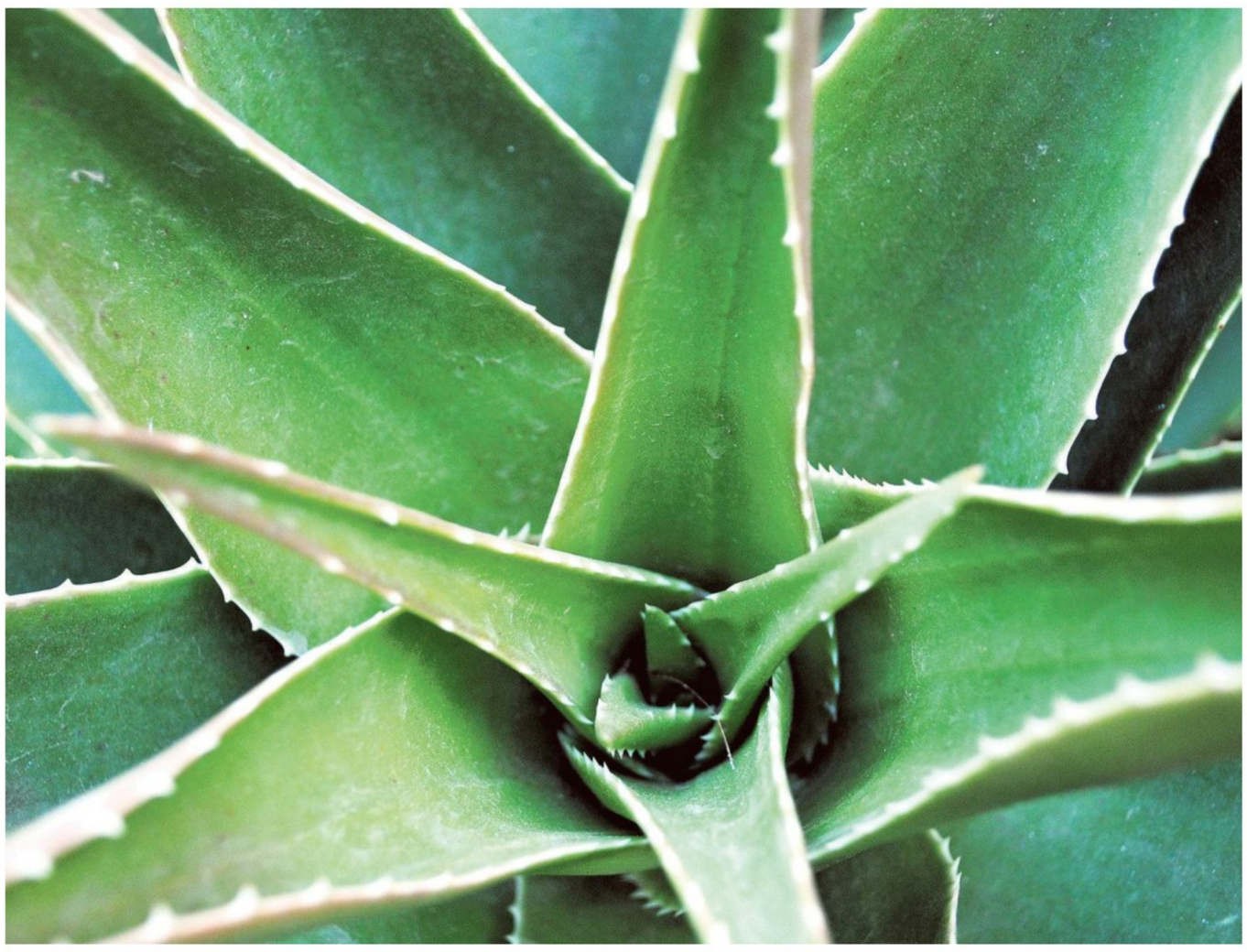
Could sisal leaves make sanitary napkins more sustainable in India?

A Stanford team, led by Manu Prakash, has found that an absorbent material can be produced using sisal leaves, and could replace cotton, wood pulp, and chemical absorbents in sanitary napkins. The team has also reported a way to obtain this material without using any polluting chemicals

Sayantan Datta



With its manaegable environmental footprint, sisal may become an alternative to materials presently in use for sanitary napkins. Image shows a sisal plant in Majorelle Garden in Marrakech, Morocco. JUST_A_CHEESEBURGER/FLICKR (CC BY 2.0)

The ancient Aztec and Mayan civilisations were perhaps the first to begin making paper out of sisal leaves. Since then, the stiff, green sword-like leaves have been used to make twine, cloth, and carpets. The plant itself is also used to make mezcal, a distilled alcoholic beverage.

Now, in a move to make menstrual hygiene products more environmentally sustainable, scientists at Stanford University have reported a method to produce from sisal leaves a "highly absorbent and retentive material".

As a result, the researchers posit in their *Nature Communications Engineering* paper, the material can potentially replace cotton, wood pulp, and chemical absorbents in sanitary napkins.

The absorption capacity of the material is higher than those found in commercial menstrual pads, they add.

The study's authors also claim that their method uses no polluting or toxic chemicals, can be carried out locally at a small scale, and is environmentally sustainable.

Led by associate professor of bioengineering Manu Prakash, the team is currently working with a Nepal-based non-governmental organisation to test whether their method can be scaled up to mass produce sanitary napkins and meet the growing demand for low-cost and 'green' menstrual hygiene products.

Access to hygienic menstruation

In 2022, the Centre for Economic Data and Analysis at Ashoka University reported that there has been a significant rise in the number of people using hygienic methods – i.e. sanitary napkins, tampons, and menstrual cups – to manage their menstruation in India.

Despite this promising growth, access to menstrual hygiene products remains limited for around 500 million people worldwide. In rural India, for example, only 42% of adolescent women use exclusively hygienic methods to manage their periods.

One key barrier in making menstrual hygiene products, like sanitary napkins, accessible is the rising cost of raw materials and distribution.

The absorbent material in sanitary napkins is often a combination of wood pulp and synthetic superabsorbent polymers (SAPs). The latter are materials that can absorb a large amount of fluid relative to their own mass.

Even as State and Central governments in India are working to make sanitary napkins available widely at lower prices, experts say that their widespread use is environmentally unsustainable.

According to gynaecologist Shehla Jamal, founder and president of the Society for Menstrual Disorders and Hygiene Management, "Menstrual sanitation waste is adding non-biodegradable waste in the environment [in bulk]," and in turn, constituting an environmental hazard.

For example, according to estimates from a 2022 United Nations Population Fund report, Patna alone discards 9.8 billion sanitary napkins every year. Another estimate from a 2022 study placed the monthly quantity of discarded sanitary napkins in Chennai at 27 million a month.

Dr. Jamal also said that single-use sanitary napkins contain dioxin, which is a persistent environmental pollutant as well as a carcinogen that puts users of sanitary napkins at risk of cancer. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies dioxin as a "known human carcinogen".

A sturdy succulent

Owing to the growing environmental concerns around menstrual sanitation waste, scientists have in the past pondered over ways to make sanitary napkins more environmentally sustainable. Chandra Shekhar Sharma, a professor of chemical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, told this reporter that other plant fibres - like those obtained from banana plants - have been used to synthesise absorbent material for sanitary napkins.

Prof. Sharma's group in the past has also attempted to reduce the use of SAPs in sanitary napkins by replacing them with cellulose-based nanofibers.

However, there is one problem with relying only on banana plants for plant-based absorbent materials. Access to hygienic menstruation is most limited in low- and middle-income countries, many of which are located in the tropics and are prone to drought. Banana plants are particularly sensitive to drought and therefore not sustainable choices with which to produce sanitary napkins in areas that are arid or semi-arid and drought-prone.

Enter sisal. Like all succulents, which are plants with thickened parts to store more water, sisal has an uncanny ability to store water and thrive in drought-prone areas. Its leaves grow up to 2 m long. The lifespan of a sisal plant is about 7-10 years, during which it produces 200-250 usable leaves. Each leaf has about a thousand fibres that can be used to make ropes, paper, and cloth. Now, it could be used to make a highly absorbent material as well.

Dr. Prakash first heard of sisal from his friend Alex Odundo, a Kenyan engineer. Mr. Odundo, also a co-author of the paper, has been helping sisal farmers in Kenya grow the crop more efficiently.

"Before sisal, we tested whatever fibrous plant we could lay our hands on," Dr. Prakash said. Being based in California, the team began with bamboo. The journey to find sustainable absorbent material then took them to Nigeria, Kenya, Nepal, and India, where they tested fibres from banana, rice, and water hyacinth as well.

But according to their tests, "nothing beats sisal," Dr. Prakash said.

Inspired by termite guts

The process that Dr. Prakash's team has developed begins by feeding sisal leaves into a machine. This machine is a decorticator: it mechanically separates the fibres. In the next step, called delignification, a polymer called lignin, found in plant cell walls that repels water, is dissolved away. What remains is highly absorbent cellulose fibre.

Traditionally, the delignification process for converting wood to absorbent wood pulp involves treating wood chips with a harsh chemical mixture containing water, sodium hydroxide (a strong alkali), and sodium sulphide. This process, called the Kraft process, is effective but also produces volatile and toxic by-products that can cause both air and water pollution.

For a more environmentally sustainable way to delignify sisal leaves, Dr. Prakash and his team turned to the environment – where they found two organisms particularly adept at converting wood to wood pulp: termites and wood-rot fungi.

"Termite guts have an incredible consortium of organisms," said Dr. Prakash. This consortium, comprising microbes of many shapes and sizes, delignifies wood in a process that scientists don't completely understand.

They do know, however, that one important compound in this process is peroxyformic acid.

Treatment with peroxyformic acid "selectively removes lignin while preserving the structure of the cellulose microfibers", the authors write in their paper. The compound can also be reused over several cycles and it decomposes into water and carbon dioxide at the end of the process. This decomposition requires no neutralising chemicals, which minimises environmental damage.

> Like all succulents, sisal has an uncanny ability to store water and thrive in drought-prone areas. Each leaf has about a thousand fibres that can be used to make ropes, paper, and cloth. It could be used to make a highly absorbent material as well

"The amount of CO_2 released in breakdown of peroxyformic acid is minuscule compared to the total CO_2 in the overall analysis (say, compared to transportation related CO_2) or total carbon even in the materials being used itself," Prof. Prakash said.

Sisal's fluff pulp

After treating the sisal fibres with peroxyformic acid, the process proceeds by washing them first with a solution of dilute sodium hydroxide and then water. The result is a wet pulp that is then dried and mechanically blended to obtain a dry mass called a fluff pulp.

When the researchers compared the absorption capacity of this fluff pulp to cotton obtained from commercially manufactured sanitary napkins, or Cotton-CMP, they found that the fluff had the upper hand in standard absorption tests.

The researchers also conducted a "cradle-to-gate" carbon footprint analysis by estimating the environmental footprint of a product from the extraction of raw materials to the time when it leaves the factory gate.

In what they call an "aspirational case" – when the raw materials, including those required to produce the peroxyformic acid, can be produced on-site using solar energy – the environmental footprint of their process was "comparable" to that of commercial processes that extracted fibre from timber and cotton. The water consumption was also found to be comparable to that of commercial processes to produce absorbent materials from timber, cotton, and papyrus.

Given the cultivation of sisal requires less water and is less environmentally damaging than cotton industries, Dr. Prakash believes replacing cotton-CMP with sisal fluff pulp could make sanitary napkin production more environmentally sustainable in the long run.

According to him, there is a "25-fold difference" in water use "for cultivation and harvesting" "between cotton and sisal".

He also acknowledged timber could be an alternative to cotton, but only in parts of the world that have an "endless supply of sustainably harvested forests".

"That's not an option for places like India or Africa."

Roping in high-school students

Dr. Prakash is excited for the results of their pilot "at-scale" production in Nepal, where he said he and his team have other grand plans as well. For example, the facility in Nepal won't only be a manufacturing unit but also a teaching and training site. "We will use this pilot site to teach anybody and everybody interested in replicating this process at scale," he said.

The team is also starting a global programme to engage students around the world in testing the usability of other plants using the process reported in their paper. According to Dr. Prakash, they "have reported a very general process. Using this process, anybody can test any number of plants."

In this programme, high school students will be encouraged to test local plants using this process and report their findings on a public database. Increasing the diversity of plants is important given different geographical regions of the world have different environmental conditions, and different plants that thrive there.

In their paper, the team reported that it has already applied its process to produce fluff pulp from flax and hemp.

Local manufacturing, local control

Dr. Jamal, the gynaecologist, lauded the study but also said that robust research is required to ensure plant fibre-based menstrual hygiene products live up to existing quality standards. According to Prof. Sharma at IIT Hyderabad, "the on-field performance of such plant based fibre products is [often] not at par with existing products".

To allay concerns around quality, Dr. Prakash's team is partnering with organisations in Nigeria, Kenya, and Nepal to implement "distributed quality control" of the absorbent material.

The process that the authors describe in the paper is also geared towards "distributed manufacturing" of environmentally sustainable sanitary napkins.

Here, instead of relying on large-scale centralised production, manufacturers work at smaller scales and cater to local populations. Distributed manufacturing also eliminates carbon emissions due to long-distance transportation.

Dr Prakash's intended partnership, if successful, would also distribute quality control of the sanitary napkins.

He sees this work as a "research arm" for the movement addressing period poverty and menstrual health, he said. His team is currently building a research consortium where other scientists interested in addressing the lack of access to menstrual products can contribute in an "open source framework".

Dr Prakash also said they "wish to collaborate with entrepreneurs globally on the ground who are trying to solve the problem from the bottom up, but don't have the kind of research and scientific resources needed to build high quality products."

(Sayantan Datta is an independent science journalist. Datta is currently a faculty member at Krea University and tweets at @queersprings.)

United Launch Alliance's Vulcan Centaur rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Monday, for its maiden voyage, carrying Astrobotic's Peregrine Lunar Lander. AFP

Private moon mission facing a death dive after mishap

Associated Press

A historic private mission to land on the moon faced near-certain failure Monday after the spacecraft suffered a "critical loss" of fuel, dealing a major blow to the U.S.'s hopes of placing its first robot on the lunar surface in five decades.

Fixed to the top of United Launch Alliance's new Vulcan rocket, which was making its first flight, Astrobotic's Peregrine Lunar Lander blasted off overnight from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, then successfully separated from its launch vehicle.

A few hours later, Astrobotic began reporting technical troubles, starting with an inability to orient Peregrine's top-mounted solar panel towards the Sun and keep its onboard battery topped up, due to a malfunction in its propulsion system.

Though engineers "improvised" a way to tilt the spacecraft in the right direction, the company posted on X that the same failure appeared to be the causing "critical loss of propellant".

On Monday night, Astrobotic said it had approximately 40 hours of fuel remaining before Peregrine entered an "uncontrollable tumble".

"At this time, the goal is to get Peregrine as close to lunar distance as we can before it loses the ability to maintain its Sun-pointing position and

A lunar soft landing has thus far only been accomplished by a handful of national space agencies. India achieved the feat last year

subsequently loses power," the company said, leaving observers wondering whether they may attempt a crash landing, even if controlled descent was out of the question.

Earlier, they released an image taken from a mounted camera that showed extensive damage to an outer layer of the spacecraft, calling it evidence of the propulsion system anomaly.

Peregrine was supposed to reach the moon, then orbit for several weeks before landing in a mid-latitude region on February 23.

A lunar soft landing has thus far only been accomplished by a handful of national space agencies. India was the most recent to achieve the feat last year.

The U.S. is turning to the commercial sector to stimulate a broader lunar economy and ship its hardware at a fraction of the cost under the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) programme - but Astrobotic's apparent failure could lead to criticism of the new strategy.

NASA paid Astrobotic more than $100 million, while another contracted company, Houston-based Intuitive Machines, is looking to launch in February and land near the moon's south pole.

The space agency hopes to use such missions to probe the lunar environment, paving the way for its Artemis programme to return astronauts to the moon later this decade.

Controlled touchdowns on the moon are challenging, with roughly half of all attempts failing. Private missions by Israel and Japan and one by the Russian space agency all ended in failure - though Japan's space agency is targeting mid-January for the touchdown of its SLIM lander launched last September.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of tents set up in Delhi to shelter the homeless

190 The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) set up tents to house the homeless at night, as the city recorded its coldest day of the month so far when minimum temperature dropped to 5.3°C, according to DUSIB officials. PTI

The share of total broad gauge routes that are electrified

93.8 in percentage. Of the total 65,556 km of the broad gauge route, 61,508 km or 93.83% has been electrified, as per the Ministry of Railway. During 2023, the Railways has achieved 6,577 route km electrification, the Ministry said. PTI

The centres to be set up with affordable assistive devices

100 The government plans to set up centres to provide affordable assistive devices to people with disabilities and senior citizens under Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra, the Disabilities Affairs Department Secretary said. PTI

The migrants who died trying to reach Spain in 2023

6,618 Spanish non-profit organisation, Caminando Fronteras (Walking Borders) said that the number of migrants to die trying to reach the country by boat in 2023, doubled from 2,390 in 2022. AP

The projects for villages approved by the Delhi government

245 in ₹ crore. The Delhi Village Development Board passed 284 new proposals for roads and drains in the villages of the national capital, Development Minister Gopal Rai said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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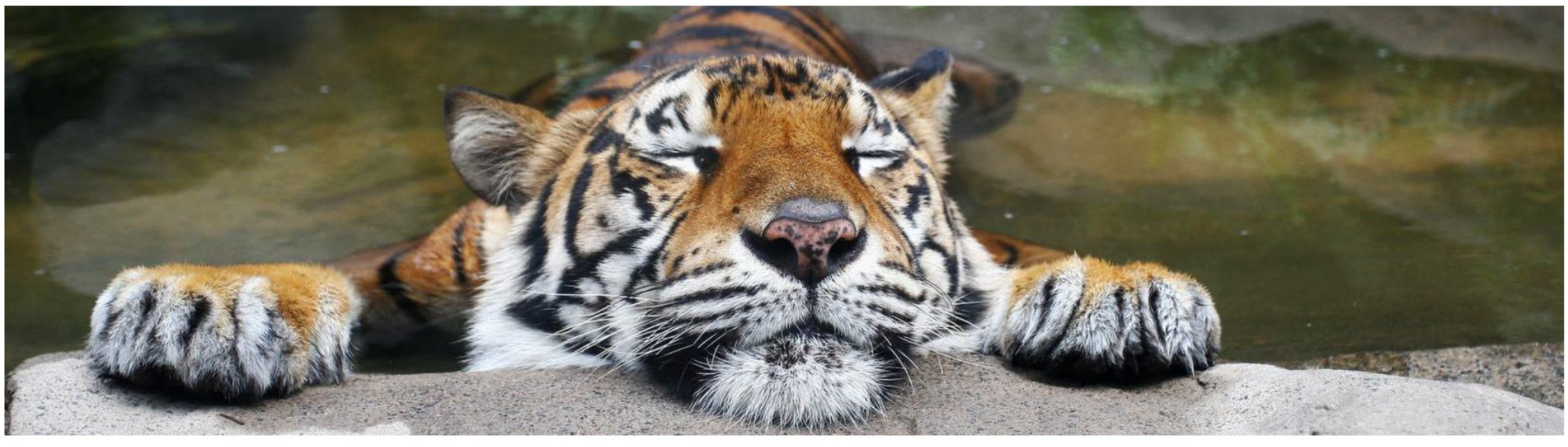

A look at Project Tiger, 50 years on

The Indian government's violations of the Wildlife (Protection) Act and the Forest Rights Act have exacerbated conflicts in tiger reserves between the forest bureaucracy and forest-dwellers, ultimately endangering India's tigers and the people who coexist with them

FULL CONTEXT

C.R. Bijoy

In 1973, Project Tiger introduced India's tiger reserves, whose status has since rapidly ascended. From an administrative category constituted and administered by the forest bureaucracy, tiger reserves became a statutory category in 2006. Today, they are hailed worldwide as India's conservation success story, especially in this age of climate change.

The origins of Project Tiger

In 1972, India enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WLPA), which introduced new spaces within notified forests called 'National Parks', where the rights of forest-dwellers were removed and vested with the State government. It also created 'Wildlife Sanctuaries', where only some permitted rights could be exercised. Project Tiger was the result of this development.

There were nine tiger reserves in 1973 over 9,115 sq. km; today there are 54 in 18 States, occupying 78,135.956 sq. km. Critical Tiger Habitats (CTH) cover 42,913.37 sq. km, or 26% of the area under National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. As of 2022, the camera-trap method indicated there were 3,167-3,925 tigers in India. The government created the CTHs to vouchsafe a part of India's forests for tiger-centric agendas. Beyond each CTH would be a Buffer Area – a mix of forest and non-forest land. But even though the latter had an inclusive, people-oriented agenda, the overall 'fortress conservation' approach to protecting tigers displaced people who had coexisted with tigers for generations.

A change of operations

In 2005, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh appointed a five-member Tiger Task Force to crack the mystery of vanishing tigers despite spending huge money on them. They found the approach of using guns, guards, and fences not effective in protecting tigers, and that the increasing conflict between the forest/wildlife bureaucracy and those who coexist with the tigers was a recipe for disaster. The group asserted that "the protection of the tiger is inseparable from the protection of the forests it roams in. But the protection of these forests is itself inseparable from the fortunes of the people who, in India, inhabit forest areas."

So, in September 2006, Parliament amended the WLPA to create the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and a tiger conservation plan. To ensure that CTHs remained inviolate; the Act only modified forest-dwellers' use of the forest – mostly tribals – and planned to relocate them if required. Four months later, the government also enacted the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, also known as the FRA. The FRA recognised all customary and traditional forest rights on forest land, including in tiger reserves. Under the Act, the habitation-level Gram Sabha was to democratically determine and demarcate the forest rights that the FRA recognised. The Gram Sabhas became the authority to protect, conserve, and manage forests, wildlife, and biodiversity within their customary and traditional boundaries. As a result, the FRA secured the livelihoods of at least 20 crore Indians in 1.79 lakh villages.

Importantly, the FRA introduced a 'Critical Wildlife Habitat' (CWH), like the CTH under WLPA, with one difference – once a CWH had been notified, it couldn't be diverted for non-forest purposes.

The government planned to notify the FRA Rules on January 1, 2009, and operationalise the Act. But on November 16, 2007, the NTCA gave the Chief Wildlife Wardens 13 days to submit a proposal to delineate CTHs of around 800-1,000 sq. km each. As a result, the government ended up notifying 26 tiger reserves in 12 States as per Section 38 (V) of the WLPA, without complying with its provisions. Of the 25,548.54 sq. km thus notified, 91.77% encompassed CTHs. And except for Similipal in Odisha, the CTHs had no Buffer Area. (They were added in 2012 after the Supreme Court rapped the NTCA and set it a three-month deadline.) Today, India bears the brunt of this error.

India's basis for CTHs

Originally, tiger reserves were to be created in a democratic process and "on the basis of scientific and objective criteria". The tiger conservation plan was similarly required to "ensure the agricultural, livelihood, development and other interests of the people living in tiger-bearing forests or a tiger reserve." The basis for the CTH is evidence of the irreversible damage to wildlife that human activities have wrought. With this in mind, the Indian government has a responsibility to ascertain whether forest-dwellers and tigers could reasonably coexist. If not, it needs to modify the forest-dwellers' rights accordingly and relocate them if necessary. Only then can a CTH be established without affecting "the rights of the Scheduled Tribes or such other forest dwellers". Similarly, the Buffer Area outside the CTH is to promote human-animal coexistence while recognising the livelihood, developmental, social, and cultural rights of the local people. Its geographical limits are to be determined on the basis of objective criteria with inputs from the concerned Gram Sabha as well as an expert committee.

The problem is that all of India's tiger reserves have been notified without meeting these requirements. The government hasn't obtained informed consent from forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribe communities and other traditional communities. The result: both tigers and forest-dwellers have been trapped in a tough spot.

Relocation and rehabilitation

The WLPA only allows "voluntary relocation on mutually agreed terms and conditions" satisfying requirements in the law. Once the FRA recognises people's rights under it, the State acquires those rights according to the terms of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) Act 2013. No relocation can happen without the consent of the affected communities. The LARR also requires the rehabilitation package to provide financial compensation as well as secure livelihoods to those relocated.

Under the LARR, the government needs to compensate relocated people by paying them twice the market value of the land, the value of assets attached to the land including trees and plants, a subsistence allowance for a year, and a one-time financial assistance for relocation. It also needs to provide building materials, belongings, cattle, and a one-time resettlement allowance. Each family is to be provided land and a house. The resettlement plan also includes the provision of alternative fuels, fodder, and non-timber forest produce resources on non-forest land, electric connections, roads, drainage and sanitation, safe drinking water, water for cattle, grazing land, ration shops, panchayat buildings, post offices, a seed-cum-fertilizer storage facility, basic irrigation, burial or cremation ground, anganwadis, schools, health centres, veterinary service centres, community centre, places of worship, and separate land for tribal institutions.

However, the Union and State governments have limited themselves to provisions in the 2008 Revised Guidelines for the Ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger 2008 and subsequent guidelines. This entails a compensation of ₹10 lakh – revised in April 2021 to ₹15 lakh – as a cash or relocation/rehabilitation 'package'. This is not a substitute for the total compensation, resettlement, and relocation as required by the law.

As of 2018, there were 2,808 villages in CTHs. The Union Environment Ministry stated in the Lok Sabha that as on July 12, 2019, there were 57,386 families in these CTHs, of which 42,398 remained inside 50 tiger reserves.

Tigers versus people

Tiger reserves experience the most resistance to the recognition of forest rights.

In March 2017, the NTCA refused to recognise rights under FRA in the CTHs "in the absence of guidelines for notification of critical wildlife habitat" , which the Environment Ministry was to issue. Both the WLPA and the FRA require forest-dwellers' rights to be recognised inside CTHs. The Environment Ministry issued the guidelines in January 2018 and NTCA withdrew the ban order two months later.

The FRA provides for 13 basic government public utilities (as described earlier), each of which can fell up to 75 trees over forest land smaller than one hectare. The Gram Sabha's consent is mandatory for such diversion of land. But on October 28, 2020, the Environment Ministry insisted that the National Board for Wildlife, a statutory body under WLPA, must issue a wildlife clearance if these diversions are from National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. The law, however, only requires such clearances for projects that also require environmental clearances, none of which these public utilities are.

With further increase in tigers and tiger reserves, and tiger corridors to link them up, India's tiger terrain is set to become a hotspot for conflict.

C.R. Bijoy examines natural resource conflicts and governance issues.

THE GIST

There were nine tiger reserves in 1973 over 9,115 sq. km; today there are 54 in 18 States, occupying 78,135.956 sq. km. Critical Tiger Habitats (CTH) cover 42,913.37 sq. km, or 26% of the area under National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

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The problem lies in the fact that India's tiger reserves have been notified without meeting these requirements. The government hasn't obtained informed consent from forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribe communities and other traditional communities.

Alert hotel staff and presence of mind of police and cab driver helped nab Suchana Seth

Suchana was fleeing from Goa with the body of her son in a suitcase after allegedly killing him

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/SHIVAMOGGA

Alert hotel staff in Candolim and the presence of mind of the Calangute police and a cab driver helped nab Suchana Seth, who was fleeing from Goa with the body of her 4-year-old son stuffed in a suitcase after allegedly killing him.

Suchana had rented a villa at Sol Banyan Grande Hotel in Candolim in North Goa on Sunday with her son and checked out on Monday, asking for a cab to Bengaluru.

Sources said that even though the hotel staff said that a flight was more convenient and cheaper, she insisted on a cab. The hotel staff reportedly informed the police after they found blood stains in the villa.

Calangute Police Inspector Paresh Naik called the cab driver and spoke to the woman inquiring about her missing son, to which she said she had left him with a friend in Margao, whose address turned out to be false.

Alarmed by this, Mr. Naik again called the cab driver and directed him to drive into the nearest police station while being on call with him, but without alerting the woman passenger.

As the cab drove into Aimangala police station at 1.30 p.m. on Monday, the cab driver handed over the call to the policemen at the station, who was briefed by Mr. Naik from Goa.

Suchana Seth, who is accused of killing her son, seen at Mapusa Court in North Goa on Tuesday. PTI

'Looked surprised'

"The lady looked surprised. However, she did not resist," said one of the officers present at the police station when the incident happened.

To their shock, the police discovered the body of the four-year-old boy child in a suitcase. Sources in the Chitradurga police said that the boy did not have any visible external injuries on the body, except for some bleeding in his nose.

The police said that the boy was probably suffocated to death with a pillow. The autopsy will be conducted at the government hospital in Hiriyur.

"She was clearly disturbed, and she hardly spoke to us. She remained silent and did not respond to any of our questions. But she had an injury on her wrist and seemed to have attempted to take her life as well," the officer at Aimangala station said.

Suchana was a well-qualified AI expert

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Suchana Seth, 39, who was arrested in Chitradurga district on Tuesday for allegedly killing her four-year-old son in Goa and transporting the body in her luggage, had many academic accomplishments to her credit going by her profile in Linkedin and other social media platforms.

Hailing from West Bengal, she was an AI expert with about 12 years of experience, a data scientist, and founder and chief executive officer of a Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence start-up 'The Mindful AI Lab'.

She worked on certain AI and internet-related projects with Harvard University, claims her profile.

Before founding the start-up in the city, Suchana was a senior data scientist at Boomerang Commerce.

She designed data-driven products for price optimisation and intelligence and filed two patents during this time. She was also associated with Innovation Labs, an innovation consulting firm, where she worked as a senior analytics consultant at its Data Sciences Group, according to her profile.

Suchana was an affiliate at the Berkman Klein Centre For Internet and Society at Harvard University for two years, contributing to the ethics and governance of Artificial Intelligence and Responsible machine learning in Massachusetts. She built scalable data science solutions for start-ups and industry research labs, and holds patents in text mining and natural language processing, as per information on https://cyber.harvard.edu/people/sseth

As per her LinkedIn profile, Suchana is also passionate about closing the gender gap in data science, and led data science workshops with organisations like Women Who Code. In the past, Suchana has been a Mozilla Open Web Fellow at Data & Society.

Lokayukta police raid six govt. officials in Bengaluru and Ramanagara, unearth assets worth over ₹51 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police conducted search and seizure operations on 35 premises linked to six government officials, four posted in Bengaluru and two in the neighbouring Ramanagara district, on Tuesday and unearthed assets worth over ₹51 crore.

Officials of Public Works Department (PWD), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom), Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd. (KRIDL), and a gram panchayat member were raided on Tuesday. Based on source based information and preliminary inquiry, the Lokayukta police had registered Disproportionate Assets (DA) cases against these officials.

H.S. Suresh, member, Chennenahalli Grama Panchayat, Tavarekere, Bengaluru South taluk, had the most assets among those raided on Tuesday. The Lokayukta police discovered documents for 16 sites, one house, and 7.6 acres of agricultural land worth ₹21.27 crore vehicles and ornaments worth around ₹2 crore each, taking the total worth of his assets to ₹25.58 crore.

Articles seized during the raid conducted by Lokayukta police on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Raids against M.L. Nagaraju, chief general manager, Bescom, in the city and Kudligi, Ballari where he hails from, uncovered documents related to nine sites, three houses, commercial establishments, and agricultural land at four different locations worth about ₹6.3 crore.

The other officials raided include N. Satish Babu, Superintendent Engineer, PWD Building, K.R. Circle, whose assets discovered were valued at ₹4.5 crore; Syed Muneer Ahmed, assistant executive engineer, KRIDL, Ramanagara, whose assets were valued at ₹5.4 crore, and Manjesh B., member secretary and joint director of Town and Country Planning, Anekal Planning Authority, whose assets discovered were valued at ₹3.18 crore.

Peenya flyover to be closed from Jan. 16; traffic chaos expected on Tumakuru road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Bengaluru Traffic Police on Tuesday announced the temporary closure of Peenya flyover (Dr. Shivakumar Swami Flyover) on Tumakuru Road.

The closure is scheduled from 11 p.m. on January 16 until 11 a.m. on January 19. This decision is part of NHAI's measures to conduct essential repairs and retrofitting on the distressed Bengaluru Nelamangala viaduct, which is part of National Highway 4, according to the traffic police.

NHAI officials have said that the closure of the flyover is essential to carry out load tests on the 240 newly-added prestressed cables, aimed at reinforcing the structure. After the results of the load tests, the flyover could potentially be reopened to all traffic in the following days.

In December 2021, authorities prohibited the movement of vehicles on the flyover following the discovery of safety issues with cables in two spans during a routine inspection by NHAI officials. The NHAI, having failed to meet several deadlines to resolve the issue, drew the ire of motorists who endured extended periods of traffic congestion.

The closure of Peenya flyover on Tumakuru Road is scheduled from 11 p.m. on January 16 until 11 a.m. on January 19. K. MURALI KUMAR

After a long delay, only light motor vehicles were permitted on the flyover in mid-February 2022. The restriction on heavy vehicles led to traffic congestion beneath the flyover, stretching from Goraguntepalya to the Parle-G toll gate. In 2023, NHAI initiated repair work amounting to ₹38.5 crore.

The traffic police has announced alternative routes for commuters during the closure of the Peenya flyover. According to a release, vehicles traveling from Nelamangala towards Bengaluru city via flyover should take the adjacent NH4 road or service road to 8th mile and via Dasarahalli, Jalahalli cross, Peenya police station junction, SRS junction to reach Goraguntepalya.

For vehicles moving from CMTI Junction towards Nelamangala to reach Parle-G toll are advised to take adjacent NH4 service road and traffic will be facilitated to move along service road from SRS junction via Peenya Police station Junction, Jalahalli cross 8th mile.

Every day, thousands of vehicles, including inter-State and intra-State buses, take the Tumakuru road. During the night, both the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and private buses take long hours cover this stretch due to traffic.

Due to the closure of the flyover, huge traffic jam is expected under the flyover especially near Jalahalli, Pennya, 8th mile, Goraguntepalya, Nagasandra, Dasarahalli, and surrounding areas. Apart from this areas, other parts of the city like Yeswanthpur, Hesaraghatta main road, Jalahalli Ayyappa Temple road, and Chokkasandra may witness traffic jam during this period, according to local traffic police officials.

Metro authorities take action against social media influencer for causing disturbance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Santosh Kumar would scream and startle fellow passengers. He would capture their reactions and share them on Instagram

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL) recently took action against a social media influencer, who was causing disturbance on metro trains, by booking a case and penalizing him.

The individual, identified as Santosh Kumar, had the tendency to unexpectedly scream and startle fellow passengers while inside the train. Subsequently, he would capture the reactions of co-passengers and share them as Instagram reels under the username Yash_Gowda_0271.

With a follower count exceeding 1,62,000 on Instagram, the accused has produced videos showcasing colourful shirts and white-framed sunglasses. Officials filed a case against him under Section 59 (1) of the Metro Act for causing disturbance on BMRCL premises. Subsequently, he was fined ₹500 and was given a warning, and instructed to delete all posts related to Namma Metro from his Instagram account.

"Upon encountering posts on his account, we initiated an investigation to identify him and take necessary actions. We directed our security team to monitor his social media presence, actively searching for any updates. The accused recently shared images featuring him and his friends on a two-wheeler, revealing the registration number. By tracing the registration details, we located him, and he was summoned to the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Interchange metro station, where the case was registered," an official said.

Under the provisions of the Metro Railway (Operations and Maintenance) Act, offences such as causing disturbance, engaging in vandalism, displaying indecency, using abusive or obscene language, and interfering with the comfort of any passenger can result in fine up to ₹500.

A similar incident took place in October 2023, where a youth who engaged in pranks inside the metro and on escalators, recorded the actions, and shared them on Instagram, was booked by metro authorities.

Grievance redressal meeting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The grievance redressal meet, organised by Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, will be held on January 11 at 9.30 a.m. in Jaraganahalli on Kanakapura Road, Bommanahalli zone. Grievances of residents living in Bengaluru South, Bommanahalli, and Koodlu Ward will be addressed at Jaraganahalli Government School grounds.

On January 16, grievances of residents from Gandhinagar, Malleswaram, and Chamarajpet constituencies will be heard at Gundurao Memorial Hall, Shiroor playground in Seshadripuram at 9.30 a.m.

MSME-TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Process & Product Development Centre, Agra
Attingal LBI
Online workshop On
MASTERING CYBER SECURITY
(From basics to Intermediate level)
TOPICS TO BE COVERED:-
Cyber Security Fundamentals CIA triad
Functionality of IDS/IDPS Threats, Risks & Vulnerabilities
Web application attacks Cyber laws
COURSE FORMAT
• Lectures and presentations
• Hands-on practical exercises
• Case studies and real-world examples
• Q&A sessions and group discussions
13,14 & 20,21 Jan 2024 (Weekends)
Time: 06 PM to 08 PM (Weekends)
For Registration
Fee: Rs. 2360/-
Contact: +91-9944971623 / +91-8129988725
www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
E-Certificate will be awarded by MSME-Technology Development Center(PPDC), Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (Govt. of India Society).

उ0प्र0 लोक सेवा आयोग
विज्ञप्ति
एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि आयोग द्वारा आयोजित आगामी परीक्षाओं में सिक्योरिटी एन्सिलरी सर्विसेज यथा बायोमेट्रिक स्कैन, लाइव सी.सी.टी.वी. तथा फ्रिस्किंग की सेवाऐं प्रदान करने के लिए सेवा प्रदाता एजेंसी के चयन हेतु जेम पोर्टल पर निम्नलिखित निविदाऐं आमंत्रित की गयी है-

Sr. No.	Bid No.	End Date & Time	Description
01	GEM/2024/B/4454419	29.01.2024 & 12.00 Hrs.	To Provide Security Ancillary Services for 2 Lakh Candidates
02	GEM/2024/B/4454452	29.01.2024 & 15.00 Hrs.	To Provide Security Ancillary Services for 5 Lakh Candidates
03	GEM/2024/B/4454464	29.01.2024 & 16.00 Hrs.	To Provide Security Ancillary Services for 10 Lakh and above Candidates

उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा जेम पोर्टल पर दिनांक 08.01.2024 से उपलब्ध है, इच्छुक निविदादाता निविदा प्रपत्रों का अध्ययन करके प्रतिभाग कर सकते हैं।
संख्याः 02/डी.पी./मिस/2023-24
दिनांकः प्रयागराज, 09 जनवरी, 2024
अशोक कुमार (सचिव)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. GEM/2024/B/4422461
Dated: 03-01-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Description of Work	Appx. Cost
Bengaluru Division - The work of "Quality check and testing of Bio-toilet effluents i.e. PHCOD & Faecal coliform sample discharged from bio toilet coaches at coaching depot of Bengaluru division for the period of one (01) year"	Rs. 89,77,440/-

Last date for submission of bids: Up to 15:00 hrs. of 24.01.2024
For details log on: https://gem.gov.in
Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer Bengaluru
PUB/614/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mrs.P.M.Lakshmi W/o. Late Manjunath, Aged about 36 years, residing at No 62, 7th Main, 5th Cross, Near Goverment School, Rukmini Nagara, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560073, has LOST THE ORIGINAL SALE DEED DATED 06.09.2010, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.DSP-1-02798-2010-11 OF BOOK-I, STORED IN CD NO.DSPD72, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB-REGISTRAR, DASANAPURA, BANGALORE, LOST AT RUKMININAGARA BUS STOP, NAGASANDRA, BANGALORE, ON 05.08.2023, BETWEEN 01:00PM TO 02:00PM A COMPLAINT IS LODGED IN ONLINE DATED 08.01.2024 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO.881040/2024, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.
BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: No.40, 2nd Floor, 71st Cross, near 6th Block Signal, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 Land line: 080-48520073

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public are hereby notified that, my client Smt.Triveni.S W/o.Sri.Srinivas.R, Residing at No.219, Doddabalapura Taluk, Doddabalapura Town, Near Navodaya School Bangalore Rural - 561203, has lost Original document of Sale Deed dated 15.07.1974 bearing document No. 2107/1974-75, Book-1, Pages 100 to 102, Volume: 2930, registered at the office of Sub-Registrar Rajajinagar, Bangalore, pertaining to Property bearing site No.81, House List katha No. 81, Situated at Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 20 Feet and North To South: 30 Feet, in this regard e-lost report was filed on 09.1.2024, vide No. 0882341/2024. If any person/s finds the said documents kindly inform the above stated person or address mentioned below. If any person/s misuses the said document, the same is not binding on our client and they shall do so at their own risk.
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 8951856652, 9845846428

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Employment Notice No.CMP/01/GAZ
Dated: 04.01.2024
Notification for Walk-in-interview for engagement of Doctors as Contract Medical Practitioners in Mysuru Division on contract basis.
Description of Work: The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites applications to engage 04 Contract Medical Practitioners as full time Medical Practitioners (GDMO) for a period of one year or till the regular incumbents are posted whichever is earlier in Mysuru Division.
Venue of the interview: Office of the Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, DRM office Building, Irwin Road, Mysuru-570001.
Date of Interview: 17.01.2024 (Wednesday)
Time: 11.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in (About us. Divisions- Mysuru- Personnel Branch- Notification/ selections)
Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Co-Ord / Mysuru
PUB/615/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2023-24/65
Dated: 03-01-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Description of Work	Appx. Value
Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and commissioning of 66KV/25KV Traction Sub Station, Feeding post and Shunt Capacitor bank at Mysuru New Goods Terminal in Mysuru-Yeliyur section of Mysuru Division.	Rs. 6,79,98,550.92

Last date for submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs. of 25.01.2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Mysuru
PUB/612/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is issued on behalf of My client Smt.Leelavati.C W/o Sri.H.P.Suresh to bring the notice of the general public that the original absolute sale deed bearing doc No.NMG-1-02282/2004-05 of Book-1, Stored in CD No.NMGD16, Date.26.07.2004, registered in the office of the sub-registrar Nelamangala, executed by Smt.Hanumakka w/o Late A.H.Rangappa & others in favour of Sri.O.R.Baraguraiah s/o Sri.O.B.Ramanna is missing / lost / misplaced in respect of schedule property.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within 7 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing site No. 2 now 2A, Khanesumari old No.581/2 new No.581/02A, Presently E-Katha No.15030701901004896, formed in converted Sy.No.39/2, measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 40 feet, total measuring 600 Sq.ft., situated at Arishinakunte Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, and bounded by:
East by : Remaining portion of same site No.2 Now its belongs to S.Ambika, West by : Site No.01, North by : Others Property South by : Road
H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify the General Public that my clients Sri. N.R.ANANTH KUMAR S/o Late Rangegowda, Aged about 51 years, and Smt.REKHA.K.S. W/o Sri.Anantha Kumar, Aged about 45 years, Both are residing at Nyamanahalli Village, Halekote Hobli, Mavinakere Post, Holenarasipura Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka - 573211., they are intending to purchase the property described in the schedule below, and they have entered into a sale agreement, from the present owners, Sri.ADITHYA BATHENA, Son of Sri.B.Vimalakar Reddy Bathena, Aged about 34 years, and Sri. ARJUN BATHENA, Son of Sri B.Vimalakar Reddy Bathena, Aged about 29 years, Represented by their Father & G.P.A. Holder, Sri .Vimalakar Reddy Bathena @ Bathena Vimalakar Reddy, Son of Late Sri.B.Narayana Reddy, Aged about 64 years, all are Residing at Flat No. 101, S.R.Enclave, No.547, Sadanandanagar Main Road, Bangalore 560 038., they are in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the schedule property and my Clients are intending to purchase the Schedule Property from the Present owners.
Any person/s having objection/s or claims, with respect to sale and transfer of the schedule property, may with documentary evidence, lodge their objections/claims within Seven Days from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, my clients will proceed to purchase the schedule property there after no further claims will be entertained and or the same will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of Commercial Property Bearing Old No.846/A, New B.B.M.P. Muncipal Khata No.846/1. (PID No.82-1-846/1), Situated at BINNAMANGALA Ist Stage, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 90 Feet and North to South 60 Feet, in all Measuring 5400 Square Feet, along with Commercial unfinished Building Standing and bounded on the:, East by: Property bearing Nos. 858 & 857, West by : Road, North by: Property bearing No. 847/A, South by: Property bearing No. 845/A.
Contact.
JSR Associates
H.R.JAYASHEKARA REDDY, Advocate
No.348, 6th Main, 15th 'A' Cross, 6th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore.
Mob.9880715022

KEYWORD

GETTY IMAGES

Momentum investing: when investors buy assets which are steadily rising in price

Traditionally, experts have advised investors to buy assets when they are selling at low prices, such as during times of a financial crisis, as assets could be found selling at prices well below their intrinsic value. Momentum investing is in stark contrast to this traditional logic

Prashanth Perumal

Momentum investing refers to a style of investing wherein investors purchase assets such as stocks or bonds that are consistently rising in price while selling assets whose prices are falling. Momentum investors buy assets with rising prices in the hope that the upward price momentum of these assets would continue, thus allowing them to sell these assets at higher prices in the future to make profits. Similarly, they sell assets that are falling in price expecting the fall in prices to continue for some time.

Momentum investing is based on the philosophy that there can be discernible trends in asset prices and that these trends tend to persist over time. The persistence of such trends gives investors an opportunity to recognise and participate in them early enough to make significant profits from their investments.

Counter-logic

Traditionally, experts have advised investors to buy assets when they are selling at low prices, such as during times of a financial crisis when most investors are scared and hence assets could be found selling at prices well below their intrinsic value. It was believed that investors could later sell these undervalued assets at higher prices when the general market enters a bull phase. The "buy high, sell higher" philosophy of momentum investing is in stark contrast to the traditional "buy low, sell high" advice given to investors. Momentum investors often invest money in assets whose prices have scaled new all-time highs, even if these assets are trading at prices that are far above their intrinsic value. Many academic studies have shown that momentum investing can generate high returns that comfortably beat the benchmark indices.

Momentum investors generally do not conduct a deep analysis of the fundamental or intrinsic value of the assets in which they invest their money. They invest purely based on whether the price of an asset is showing a strong trend, either upward or downward, that they can ride on. For this reason, many critics argue that momentum investing can cause an unsustainable rise or fall in prices as momentum investors are blind to the actual value of these assets. This, they argue, can eventually lead to heavy losses for investors who are late to sell when the prices of these momentum-driven assets correct suddenly to catch up with the assets' intrinsic value.

Some investors may combine value investing, which is based on assessing the intrinsic value of an asset, with momentum investing. These investors believe that taking into account the existing trend in the price of an asset can help save time and boost investment returns. It should be noted that traditional value investors believe in purchasing assets that are undervalued and selling them when the price of the asset has risen to match the asset's intrinsic value. It might, however, take many years before the price of an asset rises to fully match its intrinsic value.

Investors who combine value investing with momentum investing may be able to purchase an undervalued asset at just about the time when its price starts to trend towards its intrinsic value. This prevents investor money from being locked in for years in assets whose prices go nowhere.

Value in index funds

Momentum investors also argue that passive investing strategies that recommend investing in benchmark indices such as the Dow Jones and the S&P 500 through index funds are in reality based on momentum. Many value investors, including American billionaire Warren Buffett, have recommended retail investors to invest in index funds that mimic these benchmark indices arguing that these indices are composed of high-quality companies that have shown consistent earnings growth. But the actual construction of these indices, it should be noted, is not based on the earnings of companies, but based on their market capitalisation. India's Nifty 50, for instance, is basically a collection of stocks whose prices have consistently risen over time and made them one of the top 50 companies in the market in terms of market capitalisation.

Momentum investors, it should be noted, use a variety of methods to gauge an asset's price momentum. The simplest method of momentum investing is to buy assets whose prices have shown the highest percentage gains over the last three to six months while selling assets whose prices have witnessed the steepest percentage losses. An asset's price momentum can also be gauged by analysing how well the asset's price has performed compared to the benchmark indices. More sophisticated momentum investors might look into the price chart of an asset and try to gauge the strength of the upward or downward trend exhibited by the asset's price.

The price of an asset may not always trend, however. It can just move sideways, and during such times momentum investors may decide to stay away from the market and simply hold cash.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Here is a quiz on all events and incidents that happened or are related to January 10

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
This English singer-songwriter passed away on January 10 in 2016. Some of his songs include 'Space Oddity', 'Under Pressure' and 'Ashes to Ashes'. Name the artist. He also created a fictional character that he used as his stage persona. Name the character.

QUESTION 2
This pamphlet written by Thomas Paine advocating independence from Great Britain to people in the Thirteen Colonies was published on January 10, 1776. What was it called?

QUESTION 3
This American crime drama television series was first released on January 10, 1999. The series revolves around an Italian-American mobster who struggles to balance his family life with his role as the leader of a criminal organisation. Name the show.

QUESTION 4
This Indian actor was born on January 10, 1974. Known for his on-screen image, and dancing skills, he is widely regarded as one of the most good-looking actors of all time. Name the actor.

QUESTION 5
This intergovernmental organisation was founded on January 10, 1920, with a mission to establish world peace. However, after lasting for 26 years, it was eventually replaced by another organisation, which today is the world's largest international organisation. Name both.

QUESTION 6
This American former professional boxer was born on this day. At 46 years and 169 days old, he was the oldest world heavyweight champion in history. Name the boxer.

Visual question:
Identify this artist born on this day, who was known for her work on modern sculpture.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The author of *Hit Refresh*. **Ans: Satya Nadella**
2. The more commonly known name of Nimarata Randhawa. **Ans: Nikki Haley**
3. This scientist is considered a pioneer in the field of fibre optics. **Ans: Narinder Singh Kapany**
4. The mother was shortlisted for the Booker Prize thrice and the daughter won the award for *The Inheritance of Loss*. **Ans: Anita and Kiran Desai**
5. The current president of the World Bank Group. **Ans: Ajaypal Singh Banga**
6. The sculptor behind the famous Cloud Gate in Chicago. **Ans: Anish Kapoor**
Visual: Name this man. **Ans: Ajit Jain of Berkshire Hathaway**
Early Birds: Samir Gupta| K. N. Viswanathan| Divyesh Chouhan| Sunil Kannada| Nihal Nasir

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Ms. K. Kulkarni, Nagpur, wants to know the exact meaning of 'facile'."

" 'Facile' means 'easily done or obtained, not deep, too easy, meaningless'.

It was a facile remark.

It was a facile success.

A facile writer is a writer who writes effortlessly. Facile writing is effortless writing but without much substance. 'Facile' in this context carries a bad connotation. It is not a compliment when someone says that you are a facile writer or speaker. But most people in India seem to take it as a compliment as they are not aware of the full implications of the word 'facile'. The 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'fan' and 'i' like the 'i' in 'find'. The final 'e' is silent and stress is on the first syllable. 'C' is pronounced 's' as in 'sat'."

"Mr. B. V. Radhakrishnaiah wants to know the meaning of 'angst'."

" 'Angst' means anxiety, anguish, neurotic fear; guilt, remorse.

She was bitten by angst after that event.

Angst may take the form of remorse about the past, guilt about the present and anxiety about the future. This is a word of German origin. The 'a' in 'angst' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'sat'."

"Mr. D. Vijaya wants to know the origin of 'to play King Canute'."

"King Canute was a King of England. Once he found the flattery of his courtiers sickening when they said that even the waves of the sea would implicitly obey him. Sitting on the shore, he ordered the incoming waves to go back and they didn't go back. The courtiers felt crest-fallen."

"Ms. J. S. Nayyar, Chandigarh, wants to know the meaning of 'sidle up'."

" 'To-sidle up' means 'to walk cautiously, in a timid or furtive or cringing manner'. When you sidle up to someone, you approach him in a way that others may not notice you.

When I sidled up to him and patted him on the back, he was taken aback.

"Following their meeting with the staff representatives of the UN, WHO, ITU, WMO, GATT and WPO on July 1, 1981, to discuss the recent decision of the ILO governing body to increase, with effect from March 1, 1981, the pre-1978 net salary scale applicable to ILO general service staff recruited before January 1, 1979, by 3 per cent, the executive heads of the other six Geneva-based organisations have decided that they would bring before the International Civil Service Commission and their respective governing bodies, the matter of the abnormal situation, of unequal net remuneration between similar groups of general service staff in Geneva resulting from the ILO decision, and their intention to grant a comparable increase in the net remuneration, retroactive to March 1, 1981, those general service staff in their organisations to whom the pre-1978 scale had been applicable. From a UNO report: What it means is that the staff should be granted a 3 per cent increase in their pay from March. The French translation of this runs into 180 words. Most public organisations specialise in 'compressing' minimum number of ideas into maximum number of words!"

Published in The Hindu on September 9, 1990.

Word of the day

Ferret:

hound or harry relentlessly; hunt with ferrets; search and discover through persistent investigation (used as a verb)

Synonyms: hunt, trace, hound

Usage: *She ferreted out the truth.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/ferretpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈfɛɹɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

771 erring drivers barred from driving last year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a joint operation of the traffic police and the regional transport authorities, a total of 771 erring drivers were barred from driving in the year 2023.

According to the traffic police, a total of 2,974 driving licence-holders involved in fatal accidents and repeated traffic violations have been impounded and sent to RTOs concerned with a recommendation to suspend them for a period of six months.

The remaining 2,263 driving licences are in the process of suspension after due procedure.

Governor tests positive for COVID-19

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has tested positive for COVID-19.

He is being continuously monitored, and his health is stable. Presently, he is being quarantined at residence. His scheduled programmes and appointments stand cancelled till further intimation, a press note from Raj Bhavan said.

Two more deaths

Karnataka recorded two more deaths on Tuesday taking the total number of COVID-19 deaths since December 15 to 26. While three deaths were reported on Monday, one was reported on Sunday.

The two deaths were reported from Mysuru and Ballari. While a 50-year-old woman died in her residence in Ballari, a 56-year-old male from Mysuru succumbed to the infection after a week's hospitalisation.

As many as 252 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours taking the total number of active patients to 1,031.

Applications invited

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru City University (BCU) has invited applications for a one-year UG Diploma course in Japanese language. BCU, in a release, said the course holistically aims to fulfil competences in Japanese language, business Japanese, work culture, and general subjects such as Japanese culture, society, and history. The last date to apply is January 15, 2024. For details, call 080-29572019.

By E-Mail/e-Despatch E_Mail ID:- serwcbaripada@gmail.com ; Ph.No. 06792-261343 / 261344
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Gangraj, Baripada
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Building Work
Identification No.- Online Tender-Building N.C.B. No.340 for 2023-24
Letter No. 158 / Date : 8.1.2024 //

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Building Works year 2023-24 in the District of Mayurbhanj.
2. Total No. of Work : 08 Nos. (Eight)
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.481.67 lakh & Rs.124.62 lakh (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle,Baripada. Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	Building On-line N.C.B. No. 340	Dt.12.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.29.01.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.25.01.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.30.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.
O-2156 : OIPR-25130/11/0084/2324

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA
PIN: 751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e.Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN-21AAACO2571K2ZM
"e- Procurement Notice No- 55/OCCL/2023-24 (on-line)
DESIGNED TO EXCEL · 60 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
Odisha Construction Corporation Limited, Gopabandhu Nagar, Unit VIII, Bhubaneswar invites proposals from Interested firms for preparation and submission of following Corporate documents from the eligible firms;

Sl No	Name of Assignments	Bid Identification No	Bid Security (through on-line transfer) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion of Assignment	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of tender (on-line)
01	Request for Proposal (RFP) for (d) **Preparation of Corporate Plan** and financial Projections for **five years.** (e) **Preparation of a vision Document up to the year 2036** i.e. one hundred year of statehood of Odisha to operate in a competitive environment, improved capabilities, adoption of modern construction technology, diversification into related areas of business emphasizing Odisha State and PAN India operation. (f) **Preparation of a vision Document up to the year 2047** i.e. one hundred year of independence of India for OCCL to operate in a competitive environment,improved capabilities, adoption of modern construction technology, diversification into related areas of business emphasizing Odisha State and PAN India operation.	OCCL-CS/04/ 2023-24	Rs. 50,000/-	06 (Six) calendar months	From 12.01.2024, 3.30 PM to 29.01.2024, 5.30 PM	From 12.01.2024, 3.30 PM to 29.01.2024, 5.30 PM

Procurement Officer: Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid: **30.01.2024, 12.00 Noon onwards.**
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
MANAGING DIRECTOR
CAD-3643 OIPR-34120/11/0067/2324

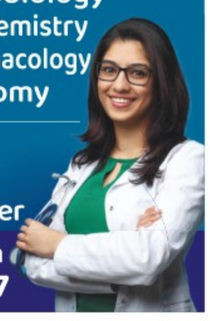
BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore-560009
No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-07/TS/2023-24 Date: 09.01.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No:07/2023-24
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Rural under the different head of account. The work details can be obtained from the KPPP Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before: **18-01-2024 upto 4.30 PM.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore
DIPR/CP/2950/SPAN/2023-24

Governor of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Davanagere
ಸಂ:ಕಾಪಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ಏ/ದಾ/ಸ.ಇಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2023–24/1627
ದಿನಾಂಕ:–6/1/2024
Tender Invited (KPPP Portal)
Executive Engineer, Panchayath raj Engineering Division, Davanagere here by invited tender from PWD Registerd contractors for the item rates through KPPP Portal. There are total 14 works have been called, standard of tender documents KW1, 2 ,3 & 4with two cover system for price of highest and lowest estimated cost Rs.125.25 lakhs to 4.50 lakhs respectively and also highest & lowest EMD has as per KPPP portal for each work.Nature of work isbuilding and renovation works. The last date for submission of tender bid is on date:20/1/2024 5.00 PM for any office information/clarification please contact the below singed office Ph no: 08192-250156 and also search website for www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/471/ Sd/- Executive Engineer
ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24 P.R.E. Division, Davanagere

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ
ಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್. ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ಎದುರು, ಹೈಟೆನ್ಷನ್ ಜೋಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ –570018
Ph: 0821-2001737 ltstaff_ulb_hootagalli@yahoo.com
ಹೂನಸ/ಘವಸಿ/01/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.01.2024
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ –3ನೇ ಕರೆ
(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)
ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಗಳು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: DMA/2023-24/ SE0385/CALL-3 , ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: 69.65 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆ ದಿ: 17.01.2024ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.01.2024ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ
ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ
DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/873/2023-24

APPOINTMENT
Urgently Required
Professors, Asso. Prof., Asst. Prof. / SR & CONSULTANTS
For a private **MEDICAL COLLEGE** in Kerala
- Cardiology
- Urology
- Neuro Surgery
- Gastroenterology
- Gastro Surgery
- Gynaecology
- Anaesthesiology
- General Medicine
- General Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Microbiology
- Biochemistry
- Pharmacology
- Anatomy

Also require
- Head - HR
- Senior Manager - IT
- Chief Administrative Officer



Apply to: hr23kerala@gmail.com
Call / WhatsApp: 7558070047

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. www.isec.ac.in
Advertisement No. A/5/2023 Date: 09.01.2024
CORRIGENDUM
Revised Detailed Advertisement for the post of **Assistant Professor** in the Discipline of Decentralisation and Development can be accessed on our website: **www.isec.ac.in.**
The last date for receiving applications for both the posts has been extended till **January 25, 2024.**
Sd/-
Registrar
ISEC-23431

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 009.
Short Term Tender Notification
Karnataka Housing Board invites short term tender from the eligible contractors in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned works.
Last date for submission of bid: 16.01.2024 up to 4:00 p.m.
Name of the Work : Providing 1.5 KM rabbit ACSR conductor to KHB Layout at Koppal behind DC office, Koppal District. Tender Reference No. : KHB/2023-24/EC/WORK_INDENT162 & IFT No. 167/2023-24 Date: 05.01.2024, Amount Put to Tender in Rs. 8,99,664/-.
For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru,
Telephone No. 080-22273511/080-22100077 website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/RO2935/AAPL/2023-24

Shri Siddaramaiah
Honourable Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT AT YOUR DOORSTEP

YOUR APPEAL, OUR SOLUTION

Bangaloreans, the government is coming to your doorstep. Make use of the opportunity to submit an appeal on any issue pertaining to BBMP, BDA, BMRDA, BMTC, BWSSB, BMRCL, Bescom and Guarantee schemes.

JANUARY, 2024 **11** THURSDAY
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Bommanahalli
Bangalore South
Kudlu Ward of
Anekal Assembly Constituency
Jaraganahalli Government School Playground, (Metro Pillar No: 89), Kanakapura Main Road, Yelachenahalli, Bangalore- 560078

JANUARY, 2024 **16** TUESDAY
ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Gandhinagar
Malleswara
Chamarajpet
Gundurao Memorial Hall, Gandhinagar Assembly Constituency, Shiruru Playground, Sheshadripura Bangalore- 560020

Shri D K Shivakumar
Honourable Deputy Chief Minister

NOTE: Citizens are requested to mandatorily register their written appeals at the designated counters along with a photocopy of Adhaar card or Ration card.

9.30am onwards

KRV president released on bail, arrested and sent to jail again in another case

Sources say Halasuru Gate and Chikkajala police are also waiting to arrest him in connection with cases registered in their jurisdictions; elaborate security arrangements made outside central prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minutes after he was released on bail from the central prison at Parappana Agrahara on Tuesday, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike president T.A. Narayana Gowda was arrested in another case that dates back to 2017 by the city police. He was produced in court, which remanded him back to judicial custody later in the day. He was sent back to the central prison at Parappana Agrahara.

Mr. Gowda was arrested by the Chikkajala police on December 27 in connection with the vandalism his protest rally against non-Kannada signboards led to. He was granted bail on Saturday, but was released from prison on Tuesday after all the formalities were completed, but arrested again. High drama prevailed at the prison complex on Tuesday when several hundred KRV activists were waiting to welcome their leader from prison, but Mr. Gowda was rearrested amid heavy police security.

T.A. Narayana Gowda

This time, the Kumaraswamy Layout police arrested him in the 2017 case, where he and his associates painted the signboard of Yelachenahalli metro station black to protest the use of Hindi. The KS Layout police had then arrested Mr. Gowda and his associates and they were released on bail. The police also filed a chargesheet and the trial is under way. However, the court issued a non-bailable warrant against Mr. Gowda as he did not attend the trial.

Murthy, advocate representing Mr. Gowda, said this was "a conspiracy to keep him in jail longer". Sources said the Halasuru Gate and the Chikkajala police are also waiting to arrest him in connection with cases registered in their jurisdictions.

Considering security concerns, the court may conduct hearing through videoconference on Wednesday. Elaborate security arrangements have been made outside the central prison.

'Probe allegations of police colluding with spa running prostitution racket'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The recent raid on a spa in Mahadevapura where sleuths from the Women Protection Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) uncovered a prostitution ring, seems to have opened a can of worms in the city police.

City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda, while giving out details of the raid at Nirvana Spa, said the probe revealed that the spa was running a prostitution racket under the garb of offering therapeutic massages for four years now. "There are many allegations of the involvement of local police officials, which are being probed now. Action will be initiated based on the findings of the probe," he said.

Mr. Dayananda said he has ordered all police stations to keep a tab on all spas and massage parlours in their jurisdictions and keep a check on illegal activities.

The CCB officials raided Nirvana Spa operating at Pai Layout in Mahadevapura and rescued 40 women from across the city who were involved in the prostitution racket run out of the spa on January 6.

Meanwhile, the East Division police unearthed an online prostitution racket and arrested nine persons, including a 40-year-old woman from Turkey, who was the kingpin.

The accused from Turkey was married to a man from Bengaluru 15 years ago and had a child. After the death of her husband, she started running the prostitution racket, operating through messaging platforms Telegram and WhatsApp and roped in foreign women luring them with money. The accused approached the client through a dating club group online and booked a star hotel in Halasuru for them. The accused operated the racket not only in Bengaluru, but also in Mysuru, Chennai, Jaipur, Udaipur, and Delhi.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police raided the premises and arrested the accused along with eight of her associates.

The police also rescued nine women from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, and from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in the country.

The rescued women have been handed over to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office for further procedures to deport them to their respective countries, Mr. Dayananda said.

BDA Commissioner conducts surprise visit to Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Development Authority Commissioner N. Jayaram paid a surprise visit to Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout on Tuesday and inspected the ongoing works. According to a release by BDA, local land owners were obstructing the constructions of the road in Sy. No. 100/1, 64/2, and 67/1 of Kannalli village and Sy. No. 17/1, 2, 3, 4, and 16/1 of Kenchanpur village in 17 acres of land.

"The commissioner held a meeting with the land owners who were obstructing the construction, listened to their problem, assured them of a quick solution, and requested them to enable the construction of the road," the release said.

Tenders which have been invited for asphalting of wide roads, (9 m, 12 m, 15 m) in blocks 5, 6, 7 of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. He directed officials to start tender process at the earliest and provide all basic facilities to the allottees. Mr. Jayaram also inspected the progress of civil works in 8th block.

Kateel mela to revert to all-night shows from Jan. 14

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The over-a-century old Yakshagana mela, the Kateel Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Yakshagana Mandali, in Dakshina Kannada will revert to all-night shows from January 14, after the High Court of Karnataka gave the go-ahead for the same last month subject to adherence to noise pollution rules.

The mela, started in the mid-19th century, with six performing troupes now had switched to performing short shows from the 2022-23 touring season (from November 2023) after the State government issued a circular in May 2022, which did not allow loudspeakers, an integral part of Yakshagana performances, between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. except in closed premises.

A Yakshagana mela, staged by the Kateel Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Yakshagana Mandali. FILE PHOTO

Later, then Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada M.R. Ravi Kumar allowed the mela to perform till 12.30 a.m., considering the tradition of Yakshagana as a special case.

Later, a resident of Bengaluru and a devotee of the temple questioned the endorsement by the Deputy Commissioner, on November 15, 2022, restricting the timings till 12.30 a.m.

The reason for restricting the performance till 12.30 a.m. was that the sound would be beyond the permitted decibel levels. Pointing out that the practice of performing Yakshagana is from dusk to dawn, the petitioner said that the restriction was introduced mainly owing to COVID-19 norms.

The HC allowed the mela to perform from dusk to dawn adhering to the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, after counsel for the petitioner gave an undertaking that they would adhere to the decibel norms.

However, the court made it clear that if the undertaking was breached, then it was open to the Deputy Commissioner to initiate action as per law.

President of the managing committee of Kateel Durgaparameshwari Temple, which managed the mela, and its hereditary trustee Sanath Kumar Shetty told *The Hindu* that the mela will stop performing in its truncated form from Makar Sankranti as many have demanded all-night shows and the court has permitted it.

Most shows of the mela are "harake" (hosting the Yakshagana show for God fulfilling a wish) performances. The troupes have been told to reduce the sound of loudspeakers to the prescribed level, he said.

Fans and regular hosts of the performances of the mela, under the auspices of Sri Kateel Melada Yaksha Seva Samithigala Okkuta, took out a padayatra from Bajpe, on the outskirts of the city, to Kateel on November 6, 2022 demanding all-night shows. The okkuta had also held two consultative meetings in the city earlier. Researcher on Yakshagana melas and author of *Tenkanada Yakshagana*, Uppangala Shankaranarayana Bhat, told *The Hindu* that as per a document, the Kateel mela was started in 1867.

From Page One

CET on April 18 and 19

It has been clarified that those candidates registering with the KEA will be provided with an interface to enter their NEET score and roll number after the announcement of UGNEET-2024 results. The KEA has trained about 250 senior lecturers and they are identified as master trainers. The KEA has launched an app that can be downloaded from its website. As soon as the candidates start registration, they will receive messages on WhatsApp about the status of their applications.

INBRIEF

Water adalat tomorrow

BWSSB will hold water adalat on Thursday between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m in the following sub-divisions: North 2-1, Pinakini Bhavan, Doddaballapur Main Road, Yelahanka New Town; South 1-1: Jambusavari Dinne Main Road, J.P. Nagar 8th Phase; South 2-1: Kapila Bhavan, T. Block, Jayanagar; South West 1: 17, Park Road, Tulasi Thota, Chikka Lalbagh; South West 4: Ist Main, Banashankari III Stage, Banagirinagar; East 1-2: A. Narayanapura Main Road, opposite K.R. Puram Railway Station; East 2-2: Ist Main Road, Kasturinagar; South East 2: Swami Vivekananda Road, Halasuru; South East 5: 2nd Cross, 17th Main, Koramangala 3rd Block; West 1-2: Opposite Vijayanagar Water Tank, M.C. Layout, and West 2-2: 5th Block, Outer Ring Road, Nagarbhavi.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated January 10, we have a story on P.L. Udaya Kumar, who spoke on stone-age tools, Roman coins, hero stones, and ancient lakes in the city.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 10, Wednesday), the following articles are available:

- A look at Project Tiger, 50 years on **bit.ly/tigerreserves**
- Could sisal leaves make sanitary napkins more sustainable? **bit.ly/sustainablenapkins**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Police crack down on courier scam, arrest 14

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to crack down on an online courier scam arrested 14 people from across the country who were operating the racket for many months.

City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said the accused were operating using Interactive Voice Response posing as representatives of an international courier company and calling gullible people, threatening them that drugs were being smuggled in their names.

Later, the accused posed as NCB, CBI, or Mumbai Crime Branch officials and forced them to transfer money online in the pretext of conducting an inquiry.

The accused were operating from Kerala, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Bhatkal in Karnataka. The accused had managed to rob ₹2.1 crore and the officials seized the bank accounts for further investigations.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:09
RISE	05:28	SET 16:59
THURSDAY, JAN. 11		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:10
RISE	06:31	SET 18:05
FRIDAY, JAN. 12		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:10
RISE	07:32	SET 19:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	29	21
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
29°C A dry weather to prevail/ Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid.Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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Quality control on raw material for 'Make in India' plastic products will ensure global standard for items exported: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Declining to interfere with the Union government's order of imposition of quality control on import of plastic raw material by prescribing standard, the High Court of Karnataka has said that insistence of quality from threshold for 'Make in India' products would ensure to meet all global standards for the products exported with 'Made in India' tag.

"If the quality emerges right from the word go till the finished product under the 'Make in India programme', only then the country would be able to compete with others. A step towards that will not be interfered with by this court except if the step towards that depicts palpable and demonstrable arbitrariness, which is neither pleaded nor present," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations in his January 8 order of dismissing a petition filed by All India HDPE/PP Woven Fabric Manufacturers' Association, Bengaluru.

The petitioner-association had questioned the quality control order, issued in September 2021, prescribing that import of certain types of polyethylene with effect from January 5, 2024, should confirm to the Indian Standard (IS) mark notified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018.

'Helping Reliance group'

It was alleged in the petition that imposition of standard on supply of raw material will restrict free movement and sale of the raw material and the standard was fixed with "a single purpose of helping Reliance Group." According to the petition the quality control should have been fixed on the finished product and not on the raw material.

However, the court, from the list provided by the Central government, found that there are at least seven other manufacturers like Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., ONGC Petro additions Ltd., GAIL (India) Ltd., etc. other than Reliance Group in the sector of manufacturing of raw material. "Therefore, the contention that it would lead to cartelisation or monopoly by one industry is farther from truth," the court observed. Also, Justice Nagaprasanna said that the court cannot sit in the arm chair of experts and interfere with the government's policies in the realm of regulation, economics, and quality.

Student dies in road accident in Gadag

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

A 21-year-old engineering student, who suffered grievous injury after his two-wheeler hit a police vehicle on Monday night in Gadag, breathed his last at a hospital on Tuesday morning.

However, the road accident was not related to actor Yash's visit, the police have clarified.

Nikhilgouda, who studied in Agadi Engineering College in Laxmeshwar and was a resident of Binkadakatti village, was on his two-wheeler when the accident occurred near Mallasamudra Cross on the outskirts of Gadag.

Nikhilgouda was riding his two-wheeler towards Gadag, while the policemen were proceeding to their headquarters on Laxmeshwar Main Road.

Nikhilgouda was not wearing helmet and as he fell off the two-wheeler after hitting the police vehicle, his head hit the road divider causing severe injury, police have said.

Police clarification

Superintendent of Police B.S. Nemagouda has clarified that the accident was not related to the visit of actor Yash to Suranagi village where three of his fans were electrocuted while erecting a banner.

He clarified that Nikhilgouda's two-wheeler did not hit the police escort vehicle accompanying Yash's vehicle. "After visiting Suranagi, Yash went to GIMS Hospital in Gadag where three of his fans were admitted. He then left for Hubballi," he said and that no vehicle gave a chase to the actor's car.

BMTC to start advance booking for Wonder-La Amusement Park

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BMTC will start advance booking facility for buses that are operating 10 AC services with 20 single trips to Wonder-La Amusement Park on four routes from different parts of the city starting from January 15.

"For the benefit of the travelling public, advance booking facility for AC Vajra services operated from Kempegowda Bus Station to Wonder-La Amusement park is introduced in the AWATAR system of KSRTC from January 15," BMTC said. A concession of 15% is being given on the entry fee of Wonder-La to every passenger travelled in Vajra services with valid ticket operating to Wonder-La, the release added.

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A new employee satisfaction survey finds that meeting the workforce's emotional needs can go a long way towards keeping the attrition rate in check

Boston Consulting Group's new employee satisfaction survey - "What Really Matters At Work, And Why We Should Care" - has underlined the necessity of employers being invested in meeting their employees' work-related emotional needs.

Interviewing 11,000 employees from eight countries (India, Australia, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, France and Germany) on the factors that would encourage them to continue with an employer, the survey found "emotional needs" figuring in the top five.

In the survey, BCG tested over 20 different needs, with roughly half being functional needs such as pay, work hours and benefits; and the other half being emotional needs such as feeling valued and supported, and doing enjoyable work.

(The BCG survey also found that 28% of employees do not see themselves with their current employer within a year. Focussing on India alone, 26% of the employees surveyed were at risk of leaving the employer next year.)

The top five

Pay and work hours still made it to the top of the points table as the top two choices, but feeling fairly treated and respected, having the comforting feeling of job security, and doing work that is enjoyable – all emotional needs – moved into third, fourth and fifth places respectively, says a report on the survey .

Most significantly, when the 20+ work attributes from the survey were correlated with employees' stated intention to stay in or leave their jobs, functional benefits including pay dropped toward the bottom of the table, and emotional factors dominated the top five most important factors: job security, being treated fairly and respected, enjoyable work, feeling valued and appreciated, and feeling supported. If companies want to keep their employees, they need to meet these emotional needs, the report notes.

Photo used for representational purpose

According to BCG's analysis of the survey data, the most powerful lever for delivering these emotional needs is the manager.

They have the most influence over their employees' day-to-day experiences, whether positive or negative. In fact, great managers are associated with a 72% reduction in attrition when comparing employees who are very satisfied with their managers with those who are very unsatisfied. This was also the lever with the strongest influence on attrition risk across all surveyed countries, except for India where it was the second strongest.

Setting retention aside, that same employee comparison shows that great managers are also associated with a 3.2x increase in employee motivation, a 13.9x increase in job satisfaction, and a significant increase in feelings of inclusion.

The next three levers most correlated with satisfying employees' emotional needs – among 300 different workplace characteristics ranging from upskilling opportunities to working model and leadership sentiment – were one, supportive leaders; two, access to resources to do one's work; and three, access to opportunity regardless of background.

All three had an impact very similar to having a great manager, when taken in isolation – and pulling all four levers together reduces attrition risk from the baseline global average by about two-thirds, from 28% to 9%.

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Drought relief: BJP petitions Governor against State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation of BJP leaders, led by R. Ashok, met Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru.

The Opposition BJP on Tuesday petitioned Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot about the alleged delay in the payment of drought relief to farmers by the Congress government. They urged that the Congress government should either pay the compensation or quit.

A delegation of BJP leaders, led by Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok and comprising former Chief Ministers Basavaraj Bommai and D.V. Sadananda Gowda, among others, met the Governor at Raj Bhavan and submitted the petition seeking his intervention in the matter.

The BJP delegation alleged that the Congress government was yet to pay drought relief compensation of ₹2,000 each to farmers that was announced before the commencement of the winter session of the State legislature.

Farmer suicides

Alleging that over 600 farmers had committed suicide unable to bear the farm crisis due to drought gripping the State, Mr. Ashok said the government had not taken the issue seriously. None of the Ministers had even visited the families of farmers who had committed suicide, he alleged.

Diplomatic row with Maldives triggers war of words between Cong. and Centre

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of taking everything personally, while Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said there are 'natural consequences' when anyone says anything about India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/KALABURAGI

AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge speaking to presspersons in Kalaburagi on Tuesday and (right) Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri with State president of the BJP B.Y. Vijayendra at a press meet in Bengaluru. ARUN KULKARNI AND K. MURALI KUMAR

The diplomatic row between India and Maldives triggered a political slugfest between the Opposition Congress and the BJP-led government at the Centre on Tuesday. While AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "taking everything personally", Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri responded to this by maintaining that there are "natural consequences" when anyone says anything about India.

Mr. Kharge told media persons in Kalaburagi, "Mr. Modi takes everything personally. First of all, we must maintain cordial relations with our neighbours. If the situation warrants, we must also be prepared to fight them, just as the former Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi fought against Pakistan and liberated Bangladesh."

'Friendly ties is key'

He further said, "We cannot change our neighbours. It is always better to maintain friendly relations with them. If they turn aggressive and threaten our sovereignty, we must be prepared to fight to ensure the safety and integrity of our country. When issues can be settled peacefully through negotiations, it is not advisable to show aggressiveness."

Mr. Puri, who is touring Karnataka as part of the Bharat Viksit Yatra, responded to this in Bengaluru. "As far as Maldives is concerned, all that the Prime Minister did was to take a walk and enjoy the pristine purity of Lakshadweep. I don't think he said anything else. What they said from the other side I will not take seriously. All I can say is that I am not only a BJP worker but also a proud Indian. Anybody who says anything about India, there are natural consequences."

'Out of desperation'

He launched an attack at the Congress and said, "When people have declining political fortunes, their language and their behaviour starts to border on the desperation. Anything that any leader in the Congress leader says, take it with a pinch of salt. I say, develop a sense of humour as they make most outlandish statements."

Launching a criticism at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his proposed Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Mr. Puri said: "Between different holidays, when somebody tries to come back home and looks for *nyay*, it is a good thing. Let him join us, we will get him full *nyay*." He accused the Congress of building a false narrative when they do not have a narrative.

Differing from the Congress views that the price raise was critical and that oil prices were high, he maintained, "India is the only country in the world where prices of petrol and diesel have come down in the last two years."

High Court finds no illegality in MLAs and Ministers taking oath by 'deviating' from prescribed format

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "it is not uncommon in the Indian society that people and their elected representatives show due deference to the sages, social reformers, and tall figures who have contributed to the upliftment of society", the High Court of Karnataka has refused to interfere with minor variation in the format of the oath taken by 46 elected representatives as Members of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Ministers.

"At times, tall figures like Bhagawan Buddha (563 BCE-483 BCE), Jagajyothi Basaveshwara (1131-1196), Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (1891-1956), etc., are held as *daivaansha-sambhootaas* i.e., divine incarnates, which the English word 'God', employed in the constitutional formats in the Third Schedule [of the Indian Constitution], nearly denotes the same," the court observed.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit made these observations in its recent order of dismissing a PIL petition, which had sought penal action against 37 MLAs and nine Ministers for violating the format of the oath prescribed in the Constitution. Bhimappa Gundappa Gadag of Belagavi had filed the petition.

The court observed that Buddha, Basavanna, Ambedkar are held as divine incarnates in Indian society

However, the Bench hastened to caution that the failure to subscribe to the oath in substance would give scope for avoidable litigation of the kind.

'God-neutral oath'

The court also said, "It is said in Kannada '*devanobba, naama halavu*', meaning that 'God is one, though he is called by multiple names'. This is in line with what Brihadaaranyaka Upanishad states, '*Ekam sat vipra bahudha vadanti*" which means that 'Truth is one and the wise call him with various nomenclatures'. It is significant to note that the format permits God-neutral oath taking."

Pointing out that the oath can be taken 'in the name of God' or by 'solemn affirmation' without taking the name of any God, the court said, "There have been instances wherein the oath is taken by uttering both the expressions, although going by logic, they are mutually exclusive. However, that does not pollute the sanctity attached to the oath. What one has to see is the substance of prescription and not just the format."

Cong. central leaders to discuss LS poll strategy with senior Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Surjewala, who held a meeting with senior leaders, is learnt to have put a break on the proposal to create three additional posts of Dy. CM

The central leaders of the Congress have decided to hold a crucial meeting with 15 senior Ministers of the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet in New Delhi on January 11 to decide the strategy and candidates for the Lok Sabha seats in the State.

The former AICC president Rahul Gandhi, AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, and other senior leaders will attend the meeting. Already, the party has appointed 28 Ministers as coordinators to the 28 Lok Sabha constituencies in the State. Following the proposed meeting, the State Cabinet meeting called on January 11 at the State Secretariat has been cancelled.

Target set

The party high command is believed to have given the target of winning 26 Lok Sabha seats in the State in the coming elections. Earlier, the party had reportedly directed the State leaders to ensure victory in at least 20 constituencies. The Congress won just one seat in 2019.

Meanwhile, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, who held a meeting with senior leaders of the party in the State on Tuesday, decided to put a break on the proposal to create three additional posts of Deputy Chief Minister in the Siddaramaiah Cabinet.

Mr. Kharge too stated in Kalaburagi on Tuesday that there was no proposal to create the additional posts. "You can ask [Chief Minister] Siddaramaiah and [Deputy Chief Minister] D.K. Shivakumar.

There is no such proposal before us. Such issues should not crop up during the elections. We must focus on giving good governance and addressing people's problems. We must focus on implementing our guarantee schemes," he told reporters.

Mr. Surjewala held discussions with senior Ministers Ehswar Khandre, M.B. Patil, Satish Jarkiholi, and G. Parameshwara and others, who are aspiring to become Deputy Chief Ministers.

He reportedly discussed the issue of the appointment of chiefs to government-owned boards and corporations with Mr. Siddararmaiah and Mr. Shivakumar.

While the former stuck to his push for the appointment of legislators to the government bodies, the KPCC chief prefers party workers and leaders over MLAs and MLCs in the appointments, which has become a bone of contention.

CM: Centre has insulted Kannadigas by rejecting State's tableau

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union government has insulted the seven crore Kannadigas by denying the opportunity for Karnataka's tableau at the Republic Day Parade to be held in New Delhi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said.

"Karnataka faced a similar situation even last year as our State's tableau was initially rejected. They later permitted it, keeping the Karnataka elections in mind. This time, the Central government has again continued its trend of insulting Kannadigas," Mr. Siddaramaiah said in a press release.

"Several tableau proposals were sent from Karnataka, but unfortunately, the Central government has rejected all these proposals. We had conceptualised the tableau of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, Kittur Rani Chennamma, Brand Bengaluru, and Karnataka's nature. But these proposals to showcase Karnataka's rich nature and Brand Bengaluru were rejected," he said. "However, the Central committee rejected our request...," he said.

"The fact that the Congress government is in power in the State seems to be a concerning factor to the BJP-led Central government. From the devolution of tax and injustice in drought relief to the sale of banks, ports, and airports built by Kannadigas, the Central government is constantly attacking Kannadigas with political malice. Now, by denying the State the opportunity in the tableau presentation, it has attacked our identity again," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

"It is unfortunate that the MPs of @BJP4Karnataka are not questioning this injustice. They have become puppets of [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi. To whom are they loyal? Kannadigas or Narendra Modi?" the Chief Minister asked.

CM instructs KKRDB to implement action plan on a war footing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has instructed to carry out the work of the current year's action plan of the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) on a war footing.

He chaired a meeting of the board on Tuesday and said ₹2,106 crore was currently available with the board and ₹757.66 crore had been spent after the government came to power.

It is aimed to spend another ₹1,000 crore by the end of this financial year. He instructed Ministers to prepare a road map for the implementation of projects and act accordingly. He instructed to develop areas with more than 50% Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe population under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Special Development Programme.

Plantation companies owe ₹2,000 crore to govt.: Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Eshwar Khandre

Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Eshwar Khandre on Tuesday said that many private plantation companies in the State owe the government about ₹2,000 crore in lease rentals and interest on dues.

Forest land in Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, and other districts has been leased since pre-Independence to private plantation companies who owe the government ₹2,000 crore in addition to the interest.

To be recovered

The Minister said that the arrears would be recovered and a special team under the leadership of B.P. Ravi, who is Principal Secretary of the Environment Department, would be formed to collect the dues.

In addition, he said that a special legal cell would be created to fight the legal battle for speedy settlement of the cases in the court.

"We have more than 5,500 acres of forest land in the State. Long-term leases of 99 years were granted to various companies and individuals during the British rule at ₹2 per acre. Some leases were renewed before the Forest Protection Act came into force after the Independence. In 1997, the lease rate was increased by ₹5,000 per hectare and the companies went to court challenging this. These companies have not paid the lease for decades," Mr. Khandre said.

The Minister said that as per available information, Merkera Rubber Ltd. has leased 1,074 acres of land and has to pay ₹454 crore with interest till March 2015, Thomson Rubber India Ltd. has leased 625 acres and has to pay ₹91.29 crore, Nilambur Rubber Company Ltd. has leased 713 acres and has to pay ₹130.22 crore. He explained that Portland Rubber Estate Ltd. has leased 1,288 acres and has arrears of ₹536.66 crore till 2022.

In addition, Glen Lauren Plantation Pvt. Ltd. and Tata Coffee Ltd. have jointly leased 943 acres of forest land and have to pay arrears of ₹524 crore, including lease money, interest, and penalty. He said that ₹25.36 crore was due till 2015 from Honnammati Nilgiri Plantation Ltd. of Chamarajanagar and others.

On wildlife trophies

The Minister said the government was providing a three-month window to return wildlife trophies such as deer horn, tiger claw, jewellery made out of elephant hair and others to the government starting January 16. He said that these items could be returned to the nearest Forest Department office from January 16 onwards and they would be given a receipt when returned.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	CE/IT & RAPDRP	61, 63	2

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** DIPR/121/Tender/2024

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Electrical), South Zone, 2nd Block Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: EE/Elec/S/TND-231/2023-24 **Date: 09-01-2024**

CANCELLATION OF TENDER

Sub: Regarding Cancellation of Tender Notification.

Ref: This Office Tender Notification No: **EE/Elec/S/TND-02/2023-24 Dated: 20-12-2023.**

With reference to the above, the tender was invited as per Ref for the work. **Due to Technical Reasons the said work tender is Cancelled.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical), South Zone, BBMP.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Lakshmi Lal
17/12/1935 - 04/01/2024

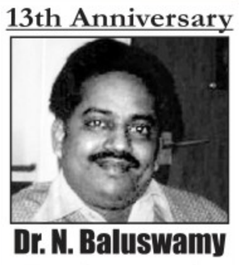
Wife of the Late Robendra K Lal.
Missed by her children Gajendra Lal and Kamalakshi Lal Dishmon, her son-in-law Randall Dishmon, her grandchild Mack Dishmon, her niece Revathi Narang, and by Anu Bose, Biju Rao and numerous other people whom she lovingly cared for.

Lakshmi Lal led a rich life. She was one of the first women hired by Hindustan Lever as a management trainee in 1957. In the 1980s and 90s she was a regular columnist for the Sunday edition of the Times of India on Indian art and culture, and a comic book writer for Chaturanga Katha (later incorporated into Amar Chitra Katha). She published numerous books including one of the first books written on Warli painting, arguably the best children's Ramayana ever written which was illustrated by the great Badri Narayan, a wonderful collection of essays on Hindu myth and philosophy - Myth and Me, and an anthology of contemporary Indian art called My Brush with Art.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

IN REMEMBRANCE: Sri. T M Bashyam, who expired on 10/01/2010– Guru :09445954111

13th Anniversary



Dr. N. Baluswamy
Fond memories linger every day
Deeply Missed by Family & Friends

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Udaya Kumar digs deep into Bengaluru's ancient past

The first evidence of humans in this region is in Jalahalli in North Bengaluru, where prehistoric tools dating back to around 1000 BCE were discovered at the time of World War II

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

P.L. Udaya Kumar shares a photograph of a group of saree-clad women scientists at ISRO celebrating the successful landing of India's Chandrayaan-3, and says, "This photo is making the rounds of the world."

Asks the passionate citizen historian and heritage conservationist at the inaugural event of The Bangalore Room, a recently opened event space in Indiranagar, "In how many places on earth can you have a space tracking centre with women celebrating in their traditional wear?" This mixture of tradition and modernity is the contrast that Bangalore gives, he argues.

In his interactive talk that zigzagged from stone-age tools, Roman coins, hero stones, ancient lakes and tigers wandering around what is now the Indian Institute of Science to the IT boom and the city's vibrant start-up and pub culture, Kumar overturned pre-existing mythologies about the city, offering ample evidence to back his claims.

Panchalingeshwara temple.

"Everything I am taking today is evidence-based," says the Honorary Director of the Mythic Society Bengaluru Inscriptions 3D Digital Conservation Project, which was started in 2021 to document and preserve the many historic inscription stones scattered across the city. "I hope to show a new history of Bengaluru, which is not commonly told in folklore, our stories, movies, WhatsApp or YouTube videos. This is the history of this place as recorded in stone," he says.

An inscription dating back to 14th century at Kadatanamale village, Rajanukunte.

Into the ancient past

According to Kumar, the first evidence of humans in this region is in Jalahalli in North Bengaluru, where prehistoric tools dating back to around 1000 BCE were discovered at the time of World War II. The tools were unearthed at a spot that housed a British-built military hospital, one of the world's largest, thanks to a British officer who also happened to be an archaeologist. "He happened to look out, noticed a hillock and recognised it as a good site for prehistoric artefacts," he relates, adding that when the man visited the site, he discovered numerous microlithic stone tools.

Almitra H. Patel

Role of an activist

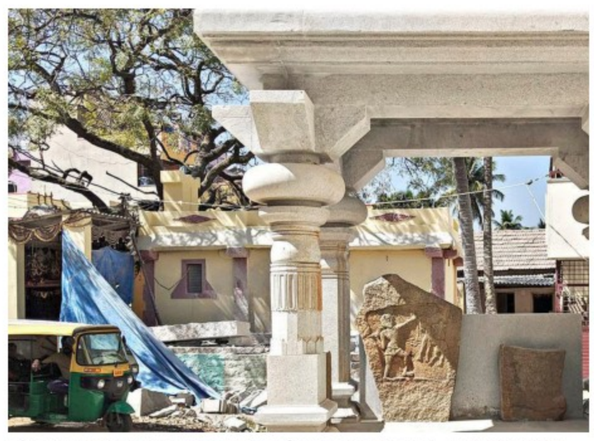
The sheer number of tools discovered indicates that this spot may have once been a factory where these tools, now in the British Museum, were made and traded. "The HMT and BELs of the world are continuing a tradition that was established 3000 years ago," says Kumar, with a laugh, referring to the other industries that occupy this part of the city today.

The 750CE Kittayya Herostone standing in a drain at Hebbal before its restoration. MYTHIC SOCIETY, BANGALORE

He also talks about the activist Almitra Patel, who played a crucial role in preserving an Iron Age dolmen or megalithic tomb in Kannur, a few km away from the Hennur-Bagalur road. Patel, the first Indian woman to graduate in engineering from MIT in the 50s, had discovered these dolmens on one of her frequent hikes through the area, recognising it to be an ancient portal tomb. So, when she heard that the area was being cleared for construction, she immediately rushed to the site, gathering the bits of pottery scattered there. She also brought in a stay order and had the edifice filled over with mud, therefore managing to preserve it, he recalls.

Stories in stone

On the other hand, a boulder emblazoned with rock art, portraying people "partying" beside a campfire - something Bangaloreans still do, as Kumar quips – was not so lucky. The boulder, which was found on Sarjapur Road, ended up being dynamited during construction activities. "Did you know that Bengaluru had this type of prehistoric past? Not only do we not know our past, but we are proudly destroying it," he rues.



The 750CE Kittayya Hero stone after its restoration. MYTHIC SOCIETY, BANGALORE

An inside view of Nageshwara and Panchalingeshwara Temple at Begur. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Udaya Kumar.

Kumar starts by playing an audio clip of a greeting in 55 languages, the interstellar message attached to the Voyager space probes when they were launched back in 1977. "What would an alien make from that message?" he asks, before drawing a parallel between this greeting and the inscription stones of Bengaluru. "Someone in the past has left us messages, not in the oral form, but in the written form, on stone for someone else to read and learn," he says. "Much of what we read in history books today is information gathered from such writings on stone."

He goes on to share images of inscription stones from all across the city that offer information about this part of the world. Not only do these artefacts date from various periods in history, but they also carry inscriptions written in various scripts. "Tamil, Telugu and Kannada have been coexisting in the city for centuries," says Kumar, pointing out that Bengaluru has been multilingual for over 1000 years. "We are happy to learn other languages and make it ours."

Several origin theories

Kumar also delves into how finding these inscription stones has altered the origin myth of the city. "How old do you think Bengaluru is?" he asks.

Multiple origin stories emerge from the audience, including the one about it being founded by Veera Ballala II, who named the city after the boiled beans he was offered by a woman living in this area, as well as the belief that Kempe Gowda founded the city in the 16th century.

The stone inscriptions, however, tell a different one, says Kumar. He talks about one located at the Shri Panchalinga Nageshwara Temple in Begur, dating back to the 9th century, with the words 'Battle of Bengaluru' written on it in Kannada. "This is the first written mention of Bengaluru," he says, adding that this 1100-year-old temple is possibly the oldest living temple in the cosmopolitan city. "We have an incredible heritage to show, and we seem to be in denial," he says.

Maruti Suzuki announces winners of 2nd cohort of incubation programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Maruti Suzuki India Limited concluded the 2nd Cohort of its 'Incubation Programme for Mobility Start-ups'. The early-stage start-ups 'Woloo', 'Hala Mobility' and 'SwitchOn' were declared as winners. They will now get an opportunity to undertake a paid proof-of-concept with Maruti Suzuki to co-create solutions using disruptive technologies for actual business use, said a release.

The initiative is being undertaken in partnership with Nadathur S. Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL), the start-up hub at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-Bangalore).

Ovarian tumour weighing eight kg removed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

When Puspha, a 46-year-old woman developed pain in the abdomen and a poor appetite for over six months, little did she know that she was carrying a huge tumour weighing 8 kg in her stomach.

Along with pain in the abdomen, distention and difficulty in passing stools, the patient had lost considerable weight over eight months.

Doctors at Jain Mission Hospital in Chikkaballapur, where she consulted, suspected it to be a tumour and performed a four-hour surgery to remove the tumour.

A release from the hospital said a CT scan confirmed the tumour in her abdomen, raising suspicions of cancer. "Immediate surgical intervention was recommended and a team of doctors from the hospital led by Kavitha Sumanth.

Bengaluru doctors successfully conduct complex surgery on Somaliland citizen

A fistula is characterised by an abnormal connection between the skin and mucosal surface

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Life for Ahmed (name changed), a 39-year-old health inspector from Somaliland in Africa was full of pain and suffering. He had multiple fistulae-in-ano (six high and low fistulae) that resulted in recurrent health issues and compromised quality of life over a prolonged period.

The patient had a history of diabetes and suffered from recurring perianal abscesses over the past year. Although he had been operated on in his hometown by surgeons, there was no permanent relief. He was referred to Ramakrishna Super Speciality Hospital at Jayanagar where a team of medical professionals successfully treated his chronic multiple fistulae-in-ano.

Following diagnosis, which involved performing a Transrectal ultrasound and MRI fistulogram to assess the extent of the fistulae, a limited colonoscopy was also carried out to eliminate the possibility of inflammatory bowel disease and tuberculosis.

The patient had a history of diabetes and suffered from recurring perianal abscesses over the past year. GETTY IMAGES

Two-stage surgery

Rajeev Premnath, General Laparoscopic Surgeon and Endoscopist at the hospital's Minimally Invasive Proctology Department, said considering the intricate nature of the fistulae and the presence of multiple tracts, a two-stage surgery was conducted to safeguard the anal sphincter. A fistula is characterised by an abnormal connection between the skin and mucosal surface, causing a recurrent discharge of pus and discomfort. As for the anal region, it specifically denotes an anomalous link between the anal canal and the surrounding skin, leading to persistent pain and discharge, he said.

"During the initial surgery, fistulectomies were performed using a laser for the low fistulae, along with the protection of the anal sphincter complex. For the high fistula, a Seton application was employed. Seton is a thread-like material used to maintain openings in the body, facilitating drainage and promoting healing in conditions like abscesses or fistulae," he explained.

Sucessful healing

Following a smooth post-operative period of two months, Mr. Ahmed underwent a second surgery for the high fistula, involving the removal of the Seton. Subsequently, post-procedure observation for three months revealed successful healing and the patient recovered well, returning to his home country hale and hearty.

"Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial for effectively managing a fistula."

"This case illustrates a staged approach to complex fistulae, emphasizing the significance of protecting the anal sphincter," the doctor added.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 10, 1974

Four More Districts for Grape Cultivation

Bangalore, Jan. 9: Four more districts in the State will be covered during 1974-75 for grape cultivation.

Already 11 out of 19 districts are covered by the Agricultural Refinance Corporation for grape development. The other four remaining districts, namely South Kanara, North Kanara, Chikmagalur and Coorg, are not suitable for commercial cultivation of grapes.

Mr. K.T. Rathod, Minister of State for Horticulture and Fisheries, said this at a press conference here to-day, outlining some of the developmental activities of the Horticulture Department. Out of 12,000 acres under grapes in Karnataka 75 percent of the area was still under Bangalore Blue.

Good Crops but No Yield

Bijapur, Jan. 9: Farmers in Gulbarga district who went in for Urad dal cultivation have had a strange experience. The seeds obtained from the Seed Marketing Federation germinated well and the plants grew, only to remain without flowering.

The Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, quoted the incident at an official meeting here to-day to illustrate the need for exercising proper care in the supply of quality seeds to farmers. Whatever seeds were supplied by the Government should be good quality, Mr. Urs said and asked the Agricultural Department to get busy now to procure quality seeds.

Print stint

The third edition of the Bengaluru Print Exchange International is currently underway in the city

Ruth Dhanaraj

For those not in the know, printmaking could be mistaken for the creation of dull, grey newspapers, but nothing could be further from the truth.

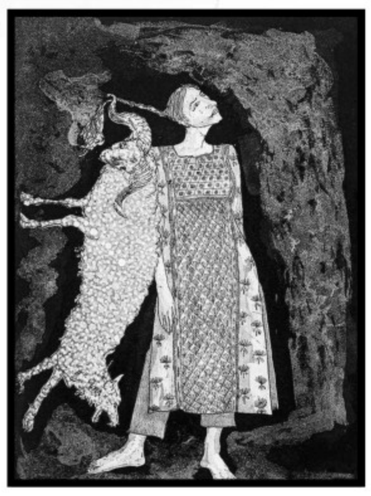
Printmaking is an artistic process of transferring images from one surface to another, usually on to paper or fabric. While etching, engraving, woodcutting and lithography are some traditional methods of printmaking, the rise of technology has seen the use of foil imaging and textile printing as well as other techniques to create prints.

The ongoing Bengaluru Print Exchange International (BPEI 2023) is a doorway into the fascinating word of printmaking. Now in its third edition, the event showcases the works of 60 printmakers; 34 of these artists are based in India, while the rest are abroad.

According to Suresh Kumar, curator of the BPEI project, all the participants have sent in 20 entries of their work, executed on A4 size dimensions.

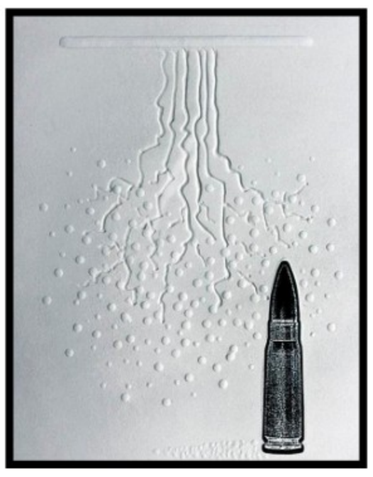
"BPEI is all about getting recognition for printmaking as an art form and we wanted to popularise the work of the many printmakers working across the world," says Suresh Kumar, who also teaches Indian art history at NIFT, Bengaluru.

Printmaking differs from photography and collage making by virtue of being completely made by hand, says Suresh. "For this project we allowed participants to choose printmaking methods that suited them best. As a result, we have works fashioned from mezzotint, aquatint and solar plate etching as well as lithographs and more."



As many as 60 artists from Japan, Iran, Russia and Canada and India are exhibiting the various printmaking techinques they favour

Learning curve Some of the prints on display at BPEI 2023. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Suresh admits the many methods of printmaking in use around the world came as a revelation to the team as they began to assemble prints for the exhibition. "This project is an exchange program of sorts among the artists themselves to create awareness amongst the community about the different techniques in practice. We restricted the size of prints to an A4 to make transportation convenient from one country to another."

He mentions the works of Juan Sebastian Carnero from Argentina who has fashioned prints using six blocks in lino cutting, work with etching and aqua tint techniques," says the artist, who has since graduated. Needless to say, she is thrilled about her first exhibition.

"Events like these play a crucial role in promoting printmaking and educating the masses about printmaking," says Rajan Shripad Fulari, dean of World University of Design, who is also participating in this edition of BPEI with his works created in multicolour intaglio. "It celebrates the diversity found in this contemporary art form," he adds.

According to Suresh, most people are unaware which is quite unusual. Other participating artists are from far-flung places such as Japan, Iran, Russia and Canada.

Initially called United Vibes, the first edition of the Bengaluru Print Exchange International was held in 2021 and showcased the works of 34 printmakers. "After we renamed it in 2022, we saw a rise in the number of applications from international participants," says Suresh, adding, "We received around 300 applications which we whittled down to 60. Every year we choose only those artists who have not participated with us before to ensure everyone gets a chance to present their work and introduce themselves on the Indian art scene."

Gowthami M, an art student at Bangalore University pursuing her masters in printmaking, heard about BPEI through a friend and followed up on that information via their social media handle. "My application was accepted last August and I began working on prints to show case at the exhibition. Each print takes approximately two days to complete and I of the artistic value of prints, not just in India, but abroad as well, with most preferring works on canvas. "More people need to know about this art form, considering the work that goes into the creation of each print. Hopefully, shows like the BPEI will address that lack," he says, crediting the involvement of Alka Chavda, director of Lavaru Art Center, for the impetus this initiative received.

Some of the prints will be exchanged among the participating artists; the rest will be archived – the organisers hope to use them as teaching tools at art schools and to build awareness among laymen. The next open call for the Bengaluru Print Exchange International will be in June 2024 and updates will be posted on their social media handle, b.p.e.i.

With 60 artists exhibiting 20 prints each, the BPEI promises to be a visual delight as well as an eye opener to the world of printmaking.

Open daily from 10am to 7pm till Jan 15, 2024 Lavaru art center, # 698, Nisarga layout, Bannerghatta Jigani Road. Entry free.

EATING OUT

Soft tofu, sweet soy, and indescribable sake

Praveen Sudevan

I first heard the word 'Matsuri' in Bengaluru during last year's Japan Habba. It means 'festival' in Japanese. But that is just the word and its meaning. At Japan Habba, a friendly 47-year-old Japanese man I met summarised the word as "an invitation to taste our history, feel the reverence, and dance to the rhythm of our culture."

This memory escaped me when I went to lunch with a few colleagues at Matsuri, a Japanese restaurant near the part of Lavelle Road that meets Mahatma Gandhi Road. But, for someone unfamiliar with Japan's cuisine, its menu was indeed an "invitation to taste" a bit of the country's culture.

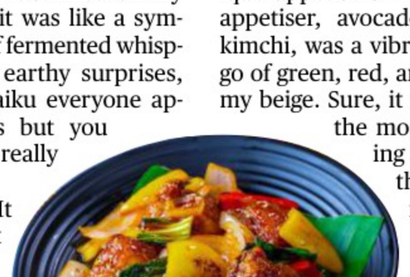
Inside the restaurant, the wooden beams and the soft lighting cast a warm and inviting glow, making the space feel intimate. The shoji screens separating the dining booths were a touch of traditional Japanese elegance.

We started with Junmai Sake, a drink with a name as smooth as its texture. My first sip was firm and bold, like a handshake from a seasoned samurai. Then, as it swirled on my tongue, it was like a symphony of fermented whispers and earthy surprises, like a haiku everyone appreciates but you do not really understand. It was not bad, mind you, just... unexpected. Like discovering your grandma secretly enjoys heavy metal.

From the Land of the Rising Sun Dishes at Matsuri SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Matsuri
Address: 10-6, Lavelle Road, Shanthala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru
Cuisine: Japanese
Cost for two: ₹2000
Hits: Grilled salmon and chicken katsu
Misses: Avacado Natto Kimci

We were then offered *okura hiyayakko* – tofu (pale, white, and cold, like a ghost) with emerald-green okra dunked in soy sauce. The tofu was as soft as a kitten's ear, and the okra was crunchier than a Sachin Tendulkar-straight drive. This contrast and the soy sauce's subtle umami made it one of my unique appetisers. The next appetiser, avocado natto kimchi, was a vibrant tango of green, red, and creamy beige. Sure, it was not the most exciting dish on the menu with respect to the flavours, but like a good opening act, it left you eager for the headliners to come.



Next, we had boiled tuna with leek (*negima* in the Japanese). Pale, sun-kissed and dry tuna flakes nestled among vibrant leeks, their sweetness chasing the ocean's salt on the tongue. It was a quiet bite, a pause before the arrival of a more familiar and better-tasting dish: grilled salmon.

The salmon's flesh flaunted a canvas of delicate pinks and oranges, like a watercolour sunset captured on a plate. The plating was an ode to minimalism. Each element held its space, with the salmon being the star against a backdrop of crisp green leaves and a dollop of finely shredded white radish.

The dessert, the rice cake balls sweetened with soy sauce, did not induce a food coma as I feared it would. It was not a sugar storm but a sweet breeze that capped our celebration of Japanese cuisine.

While the prices might not be light on the wallet, the restaurant's loyal Japanese clientele and a chef from Japan, suggest a likelihood of experiencing authentic Japanese flavours.

Meet me at Sudha Chats

STREET TREATS

Nidhi Adlakha

If you take a walk on Berlie Street after 4 pm, the aroma of freshly fried *samosas, kachoris*, and *pakoras* envelopes the area. Sudha Chats, a hole-in-the-wall joint is where these delicious treats are made every evening by J Satyanarayan and his mother, Sudha, whom the shop is named after.

As you step closer, one can see Sudha sitting behind a large cauldron of piping hot oil. To her left, is a tray of *samosas*, and *kachoris* ready to be fried, and a plateful of vegetables and chickpea batter for the pakoras.

"Sudha Chats was opened in 1983 by my late father P Jawaharlal," says Satyanarayan, as he smashes a samosa in a paper bowl, garnishes it with onions, chutneys and serves it to an onlooking customer. He talks about how he started helping his father in 2000 when he was in college, and eventually took over the shop after his father's demise. Today, their menu comprises crispy *aloo samosas, kachoris* that are offered plain or with spicy *chana masala* and tangy chutneys; and a range of *pakoras* such as *palak*, raw banana, chilli, *aloo bonda*, among others. While all the *chaat* preparations are must-try, the standout for me is the melt-in-the-mouth *gulab jamun*: pillowy soft with just the right amount of sweetness.

Comfort food J Satyanarayan and his mother Sudha at their shop. THE HINDU

Taking us through their daily routine, Satyanarayan says his day starts by going to the market to buy vegetables, and prep starts at 10 am. "Everyone at home is involved in preparing all the snacks, and we prep until 3pm. The shop opens at 4-4.30," he says, adding that they also undertake bulk orders.

Sudha Chats is at 26/3, Berlie Street, Langford Town. For bulk orders, call 9980348380

CITYBEATS

Dance debut

JANUARY 13
Natya Niketan presents the Bharatanatyam rangapravesha of Dhanya M Kashyap. Dhanya has trained under Bharatanatyam teacher Revathi Narasimhan, founder and director of Natya Niketan. She has been learning this dance form or 13 years now and is also a student of architecture.
At JSS Auditorium, Jayanagar.

Crafts from Rajasthan

ONGOING
An exclusive sale of handloom, handicrafts and jewellery is underway. Called The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition and organised by Maaruthi Enterprises, it also features Odisha tie-and-dye, dress materials and more. There are also carpets, *durries, jutis* and *pattachitra* paintings.
On at Banashankari Mahila Samaja.

True blue

JANUARY 12
Called 'Free Concert', this one will be performed by the Sarjapur Blues Band (SBB). The band features Shekhar Seshadri (professor of psychiatry, NIMHANS) on vocals and acoustic guitar with Vinoo Matthew (research consultant), strumming on the electric guitar.
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar Call 9632510126.

Kaleshwaram project: offices of Irrigation Department searched

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has swung into action without wasting much time for inquiring into the alleged irregularities in the execution of Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) following the caving-in of some piers of the Medigadda Barrage of the project and other damages such as seepage and cracks noticed in the two upstream barrages – Annaram and Sundilla.

Several teams of officials of the Vigilance and Enforcement Department raided the offices of the Irrigation Department from Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) to Executive Engineer (EE) level at about 10 locations on Tuesday. According to highly placed sources, the V&E teams conducted searches in KLIP offices at Mahadevpur, Karimnagar, Warangal, Ramagundam and Hyderabad.

According to highly-placed sources, the teams had seized files, documents and hard disks of computers so that they could not be tampered with. The focus of searches was to find out irregularities both in the technical (engineering) and financial aspects. The documents of projects works from the pre-bid stage were taken for investigation.

It is understood that the State government has directed the V&E Department to inquire into the irregularities.

Ravi withdraws notifications on V-C search committees

Governor was 'hopeful' the T.N. Government would constitute search committees by including a nominee by University Grants Commission in line with SC judgments

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

R.N. Ravi

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi has "withdrawn" three controversial notifications unilaterally constituting search committees for shortlisting Vice-Chancellor candidates for three State-run universities.

A Raj Bhavan press release on January 9 said the Governor was "hopeful" that the Tamil Nadu government would constitute search committees by including a nominee of the University Grants Commission (UGC), in line with Supreme Court judgments. Mr. Ravi had issued notifications constituting search-cum-selection committees for identification of candidates for appointment as Vice-Chancellors.

Notifications had been were issued for of the Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, the Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, Chennai, and the University of Madras.

Whereas the Higher Education Department had issued notifications constituting the search committees sans a nominee of the UGC.

The Governor, as Chancellor of certain universities, "reposing confidence" that the Government of Tamil Nadu would act in consonance with the judgments of the Supreme Court of India and the recent judgment of the Madras High Court withdrew the notifications issued by him, the official communication from the Raj Bhavan said.

"The Governor is hopeful that the Government will now constitute Search Committees, including a nominee of UGC [University Grants Commission] chairman in line with the judgments of Constitutional courts," it said. The Raj Bhavan communication comes a few days after Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, along with senior Ministers and Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena called on Governor R.N. Ravi in the Raj Bhavan and discussed affairs of the State, in line with the advice of the Supreme Court.

Despite LDF's protest, Khan opens welfare programme in Idukki

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

Notwithstanding the protests and the hartal called by the Left Democratic Front (LDF), Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan inaugurated the Karunya Family Welfare Scheme of the Kerala Vyapari Vayasai Ekopana Samiti (KVVES) at Thodupuzha on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the scheme, Mr. Khan said he felt no threats from anywhere.

"The LDF tried to block the programme, but it failed. Before the programme, we submitted a letter to the District Police Chief to ensure security and the police ensured full security to the event," district president Sunny Paimbillil said.

However, the district witnessed protests by the Students' Federation of India, Democratic Youth Federation of India, and Youth Front (M) against the Governor.

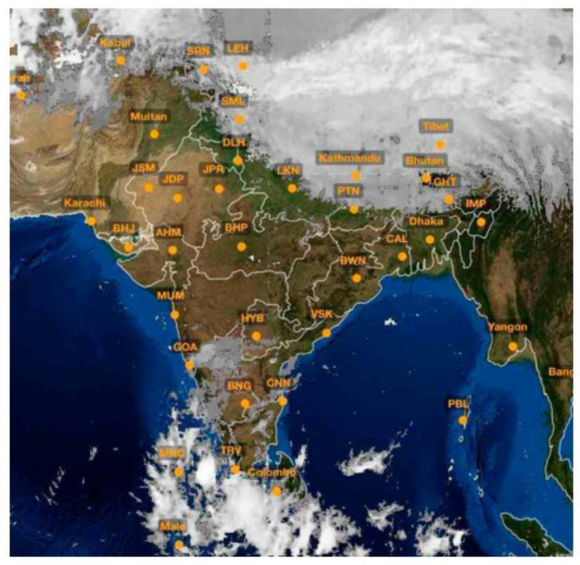
Black flags were raised while the Governor was en route to the venue of the event.

The dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the LDF in protest against the Governor not giving consent to the Kerala Land Assignment (Amendment) Bill disrupted normal life in the district. Buses and taxis kept off the road and educational institutions remained closed.

No untoward incidents were reported in the district.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Dense/very dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	19.8	13.2	Kozhikode	—	33.4	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	28.0	18.0	Kurnool	—	31.7	21.3
Aizawl	—	23.5	9.8	Lucknow	—	17.1	9.0
Allahabad	—	22.6	10.9	Madurai	2	27.2	23.9
Bengaluru	2	25.4	19.3	Mangaluru	46	31.0	22.9
Bhopal	—	27.7	15.6	Mumbai	—	31.9	22.2
Bhubaneswar	—	27.7	16.4	Mysuru	8	29.0	26.0
Chandigarh	—	12.1	9.5	New Delhi	—	13.4	7.9
Chennai	—	30.3	23.3	Patna	—	23.7	10.1
Coimbatore	7	24.8	22.6	Port Blair	—	31.2	26.0
Dehradun	—	21.4	6.6	Puducherry	—	28.0	23.8
Gangtok	—	15.4	7.1	Pune	—	24.8	18.2
Goa	1	31.0	24.6	Raipur	—	30.7	16.9
Guwahati	—	24.0	11.0	Ranchi	—	26.4	9.8
Hubballi	—	28.0	20.0	Shillong	—	17.4	7.9
Hyderabad	—	27.5	20.0	Shimla	—	17.8	3.4
Imphal	—	22.4	5.5	Srinagar	—	14.2	-2.4
Jaipur	—	19.2	11.9	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.5	25.4
Kochi	0.6	30.0	25.0	Tiruchi	0.4	27.7	23.6
Kohima	—	16.2	4.0	Vijayawada	—	29.1	22.2
Kolkata	—	24.6	15.6	Visakhapatnam	—	28.0	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	3	12	.51	197	150	
Bengaluru	9	17	.18	278	—	
Chennai	28	48	107	76	88	
Delhi	16	85	124	389	327	
Hyderabad	15	35	28	145	112	
Kolkata	18	59	28	286	163	
Lucknow	4	44	91	240	190	
Mumbai	10	15	30	210	147	
Pune	130	212	108	177	133	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	45	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 359 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kerala Youth Congress chief arrested

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In the net: Youth Congress Kerala chief Rahul Mankoottathil being brought to General Hospital on Tuesday after his arrest. S. MAHISHA

The Judicial First Class Magistrate (III), Thiruvananthapuram, on Tuesday remanded Youth Congress (YC) Kerala president Rahul Mamkootathil in judicial custody till January 22 after the police arrested and produced him in court as the prime instigator of the violence that unfolded in front of the Secretariat here during an Opposition protest march on December 20.

Earlier, a police team from Thiruvananthapuram arrested Mr. Mamkootathil from his residence at Nellimukal, near Adoor.

The court's decision to deny Mr. Mamkootathil bail seemed to portend some legal jeopardy for Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan and Congress legislators Shafi Parambil and M. Vincent who the police had arraigned as accused in the rioting case.

Mr. Mamkootathil's counsel complained that the police had not notified his client of his impending arrest and had detained him while he was convalescing at home from a head injury "inflicted" by the riot police.

The charges against Mr. Mamkootathil included grievously hurting an officer, preventing uniformed officers from discharging their duties, destroying public property, rioting and unlawful assembly.

The police have so far arrested 32 YC workers.

YSRCP tampering with A.P. voters' list, TDP, JSP tell EC

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Jana Sena Party (JSP) on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission (EC) urging it to look into the "en masse deletion" of voters' names from electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh.

TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu, JSP chief Pawan Kalyan met the EC officials, who were in the city to elicit the opinion of the political parties in the State on the conduct of the 2024 Assembly and general elections.

Submitting a report to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar, Mr. Naidu and Mr. Kalyan urged the officials to take steps to conduct the polls in a transparent manner.

'Bogus voters included'

They pointed out that the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) was abusing power. Voters' names were being deleted en masse, and enrolled at the will of the YSRCP leaders, they said.

A record number of irregularities were found in the electoral rolls. The fear of losing power has been haunting Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and hence YSRCP leaders were manipulating voters' list and enrolling bogus voters, they alleged.

One for the record

Team work: Participants performing Surya Namaskar 2,592 times in 88 minutes in a bid to set a record, at an event organised by Om Free Yoga organisation in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. K.R. DEEPAK

Two tiger deaths reported in two days in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Apprehensions are rife about the likely poisoning of bait as the reason for the deaths of two tigers in the Kumram Bheem Asifabad district in Telangana in the past two days.

The first carcass of a sub-adult female tiger was found on Saturday, in the Kagaznagar range, which the forest authorities had attributed to territorial fights. The second carcass of a male tiger, aged five to six years, was discovered on Monday, about 500-600 metres from the location where the tigress was found.

Wildlife conservation activists refuted territorial fight as the reason, as they are rare among females unless they are with cubs. Though males are known to kill the cubs to prevent competition, they do not attempt it with sub-adult ones, they say.

"A few days ago, there was a cattle kill, and the villagers were furious about it. Though officials claim that they have been compensating the cattle loss due to tiger attacks, the amount is too low," says a tiger activist.

A statement from the Forest Department said as per the initial probe, poisoning seemed to have been the likely cause of death of the male tiger.

Handrail of flyover at the Sannidhanam collapses due to heavy rush at Sabarimala

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

With just a day left for the authorities to start regulating the inflow of devotees to Sabarimala, the holy hillock on Tuesday witnessed a heavy rush with people waiting in queues for hours to perform the pilgrimage.

The rush to the Ayyappa temple was so intense that the handrail of a flyover at the Sannidhanam, through which the pilgrims are routed to the temple, collapsed due to overcrowding. Though some pilgrims fell down, no injuries were reported.

Devotees having darshan at the Ayyappa temple. LEJU KAMAL

As per official estimates, an average of one lakh devotees have been visiting the temple on a daily basis since its reopening on December 30. In a bid to ease the rush for the Makaravilakku festival, authorities have brought down the limit of virtual queue bookings for January 14 and 15 to 50,000 and 40,000 respectively.

Elaborate arrangements are being made in connection with the 'Thiruvabharanam' procession as well. The three-day procession carrying the 'Thiruvabharanam', to be adorned on the idol of Lord Ayyappa during the Makaravilakku festival, will begin on January 13.

Meanwhile, a new batch of police officers on Tuesday began taking charge of the security and crowd management duties at Sabarimala in a phased manner, while retaining 50% of the police officers from the previous batch. While the first batch of 950 police officers led by 10 deputy police superintendents took charge, the rest will join the duty on Thursday.

An additional batch of 350 police officers led by six deputy superintendents will join duty on January 13.

Madras HC refuses to declare election of 4 MPs, 8 MLAs null and void

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday refused to declare as null and void the election of four MPs and eight MLAs, who had contested on reserved symbols belonging to other political parties in the 2019 general election and the 2021 Assembly election, respectively.

Chief Justice Sanjay V. Gangapurwala and Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy disposed of two public interest litigation petitions filed by advocate M.L. Ravi of the Desiya Makkal Sakthi Katchi in 2019 and 2021, after observing that disputed questions of fact, with respect to the party to which the legislators belonged, could not be decided in writ jurisdiction.

Earlier, the petitioner's counsel, T. Sivagnanasambandan, claimed that the MPs, T.R. Paarivendhar (representing Perambalur constituency), D. Ravikumar (Villupuram), A. Ganeshamurthi (Erode) and A.K.P. Chinnaraj (Namakkal), belonged to the Indiya Jananayaga Katchi, the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Kongu Makkal Desiya Katchi, respectively.

'Fought on DMK symbol'

However, all four had contested on the 'rising sun' symbol of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, he said. The counsel claimed that similarly, MLAs T. Sadhan Thirumalai Kumar, M. Boominathan, K. Chinnappa, A.R.R. Raghuraman, M.H. Jawahirullah, E.R. Eswaran, T. Velmurugan and M. Jagan Moorthy belonged to different parties, but had contested on either the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's 'rising sun' symbol or the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's 'two leaves' symbol.

Denying the allegation, advocates Richardson Wilson and S. Manuraj, representing some of the legislators, said that their clients had contested the elections only after becoming members of the recognised political parties on whose reserved symbols the elections were fought.

The counsel pointed out that a reserved symbol would be allotted only to candidates authorised by the party concerned.

On his part, advocate Niranjan Rajagopalan, representing the EC, said that the Returning Officers perform a quasi judicial act of accepting the nomination of a candidate on the basis of the papers filed before him/her, and if there are any discrepancies in those documents, the election of such a candidate could be challenged only by way of an election petition and not a writ petition.

Growth *sans* demand

Government spending seems to be propping up growth

The first advance estimates of national income for the current fiscal year present a picture of an economy on steroids – of government spending. While the NSO has made bold to project real GDP growth marginally quickening to a 7.3% pace, from 2022-23's 7.2%, scrutiny of sectoral output figures that together form the gross value added, and the demand data reflected in expenditure numbers posit an economy still searching for durable drivers of consumption-led growth. While overall GVA growth is seen slowing to 6.9%, from the preceding fiscal's 7%, the agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing sector – the bedrock of the rural economy, one of the largest providers of work and the second-largest generator of economic value outside the services economy – will see output expanding by 1.8%, the slowest in eight years and less than half of 2022-23's 4% pace. And even this pace of growth may be optimistic given the estimated shortfall in *kharif* output and lag in *rabi* sowing, particularly in paddy and pulses. Equally, the second-largest component of the services economy, the omnibus trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting sector – also a large provider of jobs – is estimated to witness more than a halving in the pace of growth – to 6.3%, from 14% last fiscal. Here too, the estimates reflect the trend evident in the NSO's November 30 release of second-quarter GDP estimates, and underscore the underlying loss of momentum in the post-pandemic rebound in services.

On the demand side, private final consumption expenditure – the largest component of GDP with a share that till two decades ago exceeded 60% – is projected to log its slowest non-pandemic year expansion in more than 20 years. At 4.4%, private consumption spending growth is estimated to have been at its lowest ebb since the pandemic and accompanying lockdowns caused spending to contract by more than 5% in 2020-21, and just over half of 2022-23's 7.5% pace. With the rural economy struggling under the impact of the monsoon vagaries and the resultant weakness in farm output, demand for producers of a range of goods from soaps and detergents to packaged foods and two-wheelers is yet to regain any kind of vigour in the hinterland. Gross fixed capital formation, which includes government capital spending, remains the main bright spot and driver of momentum. The NSO pegs GFCF growing 10.3% to reach a record 34.9% share of GDP this fiscal. With the general election just ahead, policymakers face an unenviable choice – keep the spending spigot fully open to prop up growth at the risk of fiscal slippage, or tighten the purse strings and risk further loss of momentum.

Investor confidence

Tamil Nadu must match its growth aspirations with action on the ground

By getting industry leaders to commit to invest ₹6.64 lakh crore through 631 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) signed over the course of the two-day Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet (GIM 2024), the M.K. Stalin government seems intent on using job creation to steer the State on a growth trajectory. The projections of an additional 26.90 lakh jobs including 14.54 lakh through direct employment are meant to reinforce Tamil Nadu's reputation as an economic power house. In sheer numbers, the success of the 2024 edition dwarfs the outcomes in 2019 and 2015. It has attracted investments in green energy, e-vehicles, non-leather footwear, automobiles, advanced electronic manufacturing, defence and aerospace and the time-tested Information Technology and digital services. Significantly, going beyond the developed Chennai and Coimbatore regions, these investments are distributed across the State, including deep down south. With the creation of support infrastructure in tier 2 and 3 cities and towns, this could pave the way for balanced regional development and partially prevent migration to urban centres that are bursting at the seams. Nine advanced nations had come in as partners and over 30 countries were participants in the conclave, whose global nature is what has inspired new entrants such as Vietnam's EV leader VinFast to seize the opportunity to enter the Indian market from Tamil Nadu. That multinational and domestic groups including Hyundai, Tatas, Adani, Qualcomm and Saint Gobain are keen to expand their footprint shows a level of investor confidence in Tamil Nadu's economic and governance climate.

Nonetheless, there is always a demonstrable gap between expressions of interest to invest and translating the MoUs into actionable reality. This has been the case with euphoria-generating investor conclaves in general due to multiple factors such as time and on-ground constraints. The aspiration to make Tamil Nadu a trillion dollar economy by 2030 needs to be matched with action – the release of a vision blueprint serves as a starting point. The Chief Minister's public guarantee to provide the investors access to his office and grant clearances for projects through a single window system, monitored by an Industries Minister-headed special committee, is a welcome demonstration of the government's commitment to its vision. A key challenge would be to ensure the potential investors have access to vast land parcels to set up their projects. In recent years, Tamil Nadu has encountered challenges in land acquisition for infrastructural projects. At the same time, transparently sharing details of all MoUs and a periodic update on their progress would further boost industry confidence.

Justice for Bilkis Bano, questions on remission

Neetika Vishwanath

is Director (Sentencing) at Project 39A, National Law University, Delhi

In an article in *The Hindu* (August 20, 2022), I had characterised the grant of remission to the 11 gang-rape and murder convicts in the Bilkis Bano case as an 'injustice of exceptionalism'. The exceptional nature of this injustice is only exemplified by the Supreme Court of India's judgment in the case delivered by Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan. As the decision notes, not only did one of the petitioners commit "fraud" by misleading an earlier Bench of the Court in getting a favourable order, leading ultimately to the release orders, but the Government of Gujarat was equally complicit.

Despite the law being amply clear in a Constitution Bench decision in *Union of India vs V. Sriharan* (2015) that the appropriate government to decide a remission application is the State where the convicts are sentenced, the Court notes that the Gujarat government "usurped" power from the Government of Maharashtra.

Consequently, the Court declared the earlier two judge Bench decision of the Supreme Court holding the Gujarat government as the appropriate government to grant remission in this case as illegal (*per incuriam*). In effect, the remission orders for the 11 convicts stand cancelled and the men have been directed to go back to the prison within two weeks' time.

A resilience that prevailed

Given the exceptional nature of injustice that pervades Bilkis Bano's struggle, the Supreme Court is rightfully being lauded for upholding the rule of law. As the decision reads, "rule of law and equality before the law would be empty words if their violation is not a matter of judicial scrutiny."

Significantly, the firm tone of the decision in calling out the illegalities and the collusion of the Gujarat government with the petitioners is likely to be a soothing balm in Bilkis Bano's fight for justice. Justice Nagarathna's words come as solace in light of the disturbing memory of the celebrations that followed the release of the 11 convicts in August 2022.

As a woman and a lawyer, I celebrate this decision. I celebrate Bilkis Bano's resilience. I celebrate the force and commitment of India's leading women's rights lawyers in this case. It is inspiring.

While justice has been done in this case, difficult questions on state remission policies remain

The concept of remission

However, at the same time, this case raises important issues on remission and its relationship with punishment that remain unsettled. But before we get into that, let us briefly examine the concept of remission. Prison is a State subject. As a result, prison rules of each State identify certain reformative and rehabilitative activities that the prisoners can undertake in order to earn remission in the form of days. The total number of days earned in remission is deducted from the actual sentence imposed by the court. Remission is rooted in the logic that, ultimately, prisons are meant to be rehabilitative spaces rather than simply being an instrument to carry out retributive punishment.

In the context of life convicts, they necessarily have to serve a minimum of 14 years in prison before they can become eligible to apply for remission. An application does not guarantee remission and the setting off the earned remission against the punishment imposed by the courts.

Each application has to be individually considered by a committee based on factors laid down by the Supreme Court in *Laxman Naskar vs State of West Bengal* (2000). These include examining whether the offence is an individual act of crime without affecting the society at large; chance of recurrence of crime; whether the convict has lost their potentiality in committing crime; whether there is any fruitful purpose of confining the convict any more; and socio-economic condition of the convict's family. Naturally, given the individualised nature of the inquiry, these factors are subjective. This makes the reasons guiding these decisions extremely crucial.

However, the reality is that there is both a lack of transparency on how these committees are formed to decide individual applications and reasons guiding the decisions. Such a state of affairs makes remission a potent site for exercise of arbitrary power.

Unchecked discretion

The current case is one such example of unchecked discretion. Besides, the Supreme Court in *Epuru Sudhakar vs State of Andhra Pradesh* (2006) has held that judicial review of an order of remission is only available when there is a non-application of mind; relevant materials have not been considered, the order is *mala fide*, or based on irrelevant considerations or suffers from arbitrariness. In the absence of reasons guiding the decisions, there is little scope to challenge them on these grounds. This concern of non-application of mind is writ large in the case of the 11 convicts in Bilkis Bano's case because the orders of the Gujarat government for each of them are exact copies.

In the Bilkis Bano case on remission, the Supreme Court found illegalities and injustices that spoke to 'fraud' and 'usurpation of power' by the government, and, therefore, did not need to go into difficult normative questions. Certain remission policies of States present the question more starkly. States in India today have remission policies that completely deny remission opportunities to certain categories of offenders or have significantly longer periods of incarceration for certain offences before consideration of remission.

We will need to confront the issue of whether certain offenders defined by crime categories must be ineligible for remission. Or, are we better off focusing on developing appropriate conditions for remission and ensuring that there is meaningful and fair compliance with those conditions? A blanket denial of remission for crime categories, rather than ensuring effective compliance with remission conditions, takes us towards a punishment framework that is retributive. These are issues that the Court will inevitably be forced to grapple with sooner than later.

Research assistance by Nandita Yadav. The views expressed are personal

Comprehending Lord Rama in all his dimensions

Vivek Katju

is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer

Goswami Tulsidas began composing the *Ramacharitmanas* four and a half centuries ago. It has profoundly impacted many, particularly the Hindi-speaking people. Over these centuries, Lord Rama has been largely conceived by them as depicted by Tulsidas. He is divine, and in his human avatar, the ultimate upholder of *maryada*, which is a difficult word to translate into English. For me, it connotes righteous conduct which is context specific.

The transformation of an invocation

Lord Rama waged a righteous war against Ravana and vanquished those who disrupted religious ceremonies. This militant aspect, especially Ravana '*vadh*', continues to be celebrated in large parts of India during Dussehra. But the aggressive aspects of Lord Rama are not as emphasised by Tulsidas as are his sobriety, calmness and compassion. The current popular invocation, '*Jai Shri Ram*', particularly its aggressive tone and manner, is vastly different from earlier invocations of Lord Rama's name.

"*Jai Shri Ram*" emerged from the Rath Yatra undertaken in 1990 by a former Deputy Prime Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Lal Krishna Advani, to press for the construction of a Lord Rama temple at the site of the then disputed structure. The militant tone of "*Jai Shri Ram*" was obviously meant to stir Hindu feelings for the Ram Janmabhoomi temple.

Earlier, Hindus in large parts of the Hindi-speaking areas invoked Lord Rama's name by way of greetings by simply saying "*Ram Ram*" or "*Jai Ramji ki*" or "*Jai Siya Ram*". The last-mentioned invocation is particularly significant for it includes Sita; in the Awadhi dialect in which Tulsidas composed the *Ramacharitmanas*, Sita is Siya. Indeed, in it, Tulsidas writes, "Recognising the entire creation as full of Siya and Rama, I make obeisance to them with joined palms." It would not be an exaggeration to state that for many, Lord Rama was incomplete without Siya.

In a celebration of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple, it is the Ramacharitmanas and Gandhiji's Rama bhakti that must be in focus

Invocations are symptomatic of changed social thinking. Thus, "*Jai Shri Ram*" connotes that a sharpness has occurred in Hindu thinking. Many, however, assert that it indicates that Hindus have become more confident. What is true, though, is that the only place in earlier times where the words "*Jai Shri Ram*" were sometimes seen was in pictures and calendars where Hanuman was depicted tearing his chest open and showing the words "*Jai Shri Ram*" inscribed on his heart.

The construction of the grand temple in Ayodhya, where Lord Rama will be worshipped in his infant form, is being widely welcomed in most parts of the country. For millions, it connotes a correction of a historical wrong suffered by the Hindus during their 'thousand years of slavery'. They also feel that Hindus must become assertive to bury the long centuries of indignities. More Hindus have begun to think on these lines than in the past.

Turning to an epic poem in its entirety

As the Ram Janmabhoomi temple is consecrated on January 22, 2024, and the day becomes one of celebration, what would be most needed is to turn to the *Ramacharitmanas* in its entirety. That would lead us to fully comprehend Lord Rama in all his dimensions, and not only in his warrior mode. Indeed, as the temple is of the infant Lord Rama, it is important to recall what Tulsidas writes in *Balkand*, *Doha* 191, *Chands* 1 and 4: that after showing Kausalya, His full form adorned with His 'characteristic emblems', He accepted her entreaty and became "an infant and began to cry". That would mean to take joy in his sweet childlike activities so beautifully captured in D.V. Paluskar's immortal rendering of the *bhajan "Thumak chalat Ramachandra"*. It is an attribute of our times that the infant Rama is seldom invoked, even if the Ayodhya case was for the rights of Ramlalla Virajman. Few invoke, leave alone take joy, in the Lord's manifestation as a child.

In the *Ramacharitmanas*, Lord Rama's compassion stands out. Tulsidas notes that Bharata, full of remorse and guilt, meets Lord Rama to persuade him to return to Ayodhya, saying, "I know the disposition of my master [meaning the Lord] who is never angry even with the offender." Yet, now in the changed times, even Hanuman is sometimes depicted in an angry disposition. And, Lord Rama is shown not merely holding a bow, as was traditional, but also with a bow with its strings tautly drawn. This is not the only way Tulsidas perceived the Lord in *Ramacharitmanas*. This change is also reflective of the enormous evolution that has taken place over the past four decades in Hindu society, especially in northern and western India.

On Gandhi

A last thought. Perhaps it was the father of our nation who had immersed himself in Lord Rama's *bhakti* more than anyone else. For it was only such a *bhakt* who would have instinctively uttered "*He Ram*" as he was felled by an assassin's bullet. It is evocative that his samadhi at Rajghat carries these words. As we Hindus celebrate the grand new Ram Janmabhoomi temple, it is Gandhiji's *Rama bhakti* that we need to absorb.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Get back to prison'

The overwhelming popular approval of the Supreme Court of India's ruling in the Bilkis Bano case has partially redeemed the Court's faltering record in correcting the injustices of our legal processes. It has established that the idea of justice and the spirit of the law are etched in the hearts of the people and are sustained in the consciousness of the nation, which must find reflection in judicial justice.

The Bilkis Bano tragedy went beyond injustice. It scarred the nation's soul and mocked the Republic's constitutional guarantees. The depravity of the offence will never be forgotten. The top court's decision will hopefully heal the wound inflicted on the nation's conscience.

Ashwani Kumar,
New Delhi

It is fitting that Bilkis Bano has got justice, where the judgment was pronounced by a woman judge. Overall, the verdict reposes the faith the people of India still have in the judiciary. The pain, the suffering and the trauma that Ms. Bano has undergone was evident in her statement, "... I have smiled for the first time in over a year and a half...."

A. Mohideen Gani,
Chennai

The top court has asserted the tenets of humanity and equality at a time when these are becoming rare.

K. Nehru Patnaik,
Visakhapatnam

The caustic remarks by the learned judges are no doubt a hard knock on the heads of the Gujarat government, the central government and the Home Ministry.

Recently, we witnessed the pomp with which the Sengol was installed in the new Parliament building. Our rulers need to be reminded that the Sengol symbolises rendering right justice to all.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

It is outrageous that at the time the convicts walked free, caste-elitism was brought up in defence of their release. Bafflingly, they walked free just after rhetoric from the ramparts of the Red Fort on upholding women's rights, dignity and celebrating women power. The verdict demonstrates how the Supreme Court shapes the legal landscape, reiterating the primacy of justice and the rule of law.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

The candid observation of Justice Nagarathna, "that a woman deserves respect, howsoever high or low she may be otherwise considered in society... faith... or creed", needs thorough introspection. This is a case which will go down in the legal history of India as one where justice did prevail.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

As the founder of Athenian democracy Solon observed, laws are like cobwebs which ensnare the weak while the powerful break them. The Court's verdict is a ray of hope as the state-sponsored violence has become the new normal of our democracy.

Sukumaran C.V.,
Palakkad, Kerala

GIM 2024, the way ahead

The Global Investors Meet held by the Tamil Nadu government is a good start. The challenge now is to have cohesive thinking, efficient implementation, and firm development. As the existing cities and towns in Tamil Nadu are now more chaotic forms of development, these new industrial estates may be encouraged only in new towns or satellite towns. Nothing should be built over wetlands. Residential layouts promoted by real estate developers must be well planned.

A.J. Rangarajan,
Chennai

Back in power

Though many accuse Sheikh Hasina of rights violations, authoritarianism and suppression of dissent in all her years in power, she has been credited with turning around the economy, the massive garments industry, transportation and winning praise for sheltering Rohingya Muslims. But there will be challenges shadowing her fifth term after an election marked by low voter turnout and an Opposition boycott.

P. Victor Selvaraj,
Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

Franz Beckenbauer

Iconic Franz Beckenbauer was the Der Kaiser of German football. He oozed class, flamboyance, elegance and versatility on the pitch and was easily the standard bearer of the best of European football. Long live the Der Kaiser.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Corrections & Clarifications

The name of the Additional Solicitor-General was erroneously given as N. Venkataramani in the report headlined "SC issues notice on plea by E-gaming Federation" (Jan. 9, 2024). It should have been N. Venkataraman.

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To read more letters online, scan the QR code.Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Why international law matters

Prabhash Ranjan

teaches at the Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University. Views are personal

Israel's bloody war in Gaza has caused unprecedented death and destruction. Images of terrified and screaming children have stained humanity's collective conscience. This war started when the world was still reeling from the shock of Russia's brazenly illegal invasion of Ukraine, which, too, has caused devastation. These two wars have led many to pronounce the death of international law, especially the rule prohibiting the use of force in international relations – the crown jewel of the United Nations Charter codified in Article 2(4). But this is not the first time international law has been declared dead. More than 50 years ago too, Thomas Franck argued that Article 2(4) was dead because it worked on the flawed assumption that the permanent members of the UN Security Council would continue to cooperate after World War-2.

While it is true that the international community has abjectly failed in preventing or stopping these wars, penning an obituary for international law is a grave mistake. True, international law suffers from several structural deficiencies. In fact, critical scholars would trace the origin of the ongoing and past military conflicts in the genealogy of international law laced with imperial and colonial character. It is also a fact that, unlike municipal law, international law lacks a global police force to enforce it successfully, notwithstanding the growth of several international courts and tribunals. Yet, international law matters.

Moving beyond compliance

Critics argue that a poor compliance record with international law is sufficient to show that it is inconsequential. Indeed, a central preoccupation of several international lawyers has been on compliance or rule observance of international law to determine its efficacy. However, as Robert Howse and Ruti Teitel argue, the concept of compliance is inadequate to understand whether international law has normative effects. A narrow focus on rule compliance elides international law's normative interaction with different actors, both State and non-state. For instance, national courts often use international law to interpret domestic law to enlarge its content, even if that international law has not been implemented through domestic legislation. Thus, assessing the usefulness of international law requires shifting the benchmarks away from a general theory of compliance. And if compliance alone was the matrix to determine the efficacy of law, a lot of domestic law would also have to be declared useless, given the innumerable violations in municipal legal systems.

Somewhat related to Howse and Teitel's point is Harold Hongju Koh's argument that states are accustomed to complying with international law through a complex transnational legal process. In other words, when a country engages with international law, it triggers a complex process of institutional interactions whereby global norms are debated, interpreted, and internalised by that nation's domestic legal system. In Koh's world view, this transnational legal process that leads countries to obey international law is important because there are certain material benefits or policy goals, such as combating climate change or fighting terrorism, that only international law can help achieve.

Accountability

However, as Monica Hakimi argues, the significance of international law cannot be limited to material outcomes because the fundamental attribute of any legal system should be its ability to distinguish between sheer public power and legitimate authority. Hakimi argues that international law matters because, through its argumentative practices, it has the potential to hold those who wield public power accountable for their conduct. In December, South Africa moved the International Court of Justice (ICJ) alleging that Israel's conduct in Gaza violates the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This is a case in point. This accountability need not always be in the form of punishing the decision-makers for non-compliance. However, accountability stems from several actors such as states and private individuals invoking international law to ask questions of those in power and make a case if their actions are illegitimate. While this system of holding those in power accountable is not ideal, it does push countries and actors to explain their conduct. For example, the Israel Defence Forces have tried to explain how their military offensive is consistent with international law. While one may disagree with their explanations, the fact that Israel has attempted to legitimise its actions using the phraseology of international law in the eyes of various constituents who are paying attention is critical.

International law and its attendant structures are not ideal. But the world would be worse off if they weren't there. Israel would not have to explain its conduct to the larger world, and there would be no ICJ to hear a complaint against it. As Nanjala Nyabola writes, even if there is no universal compliance with international law, especially international humanitarian law, there is a universal aspiration towards compliance. International law must be moulded and accentuated to become an instrument that holds the powerful accountable in international relations. International law should be marshalled each time men who are drunk with power wish to act as they please. The world needs more, not less, of fair international law to constrain expansionist, imperial, and illiberal propensities.

International law and its attendant structures are not ideal. But the world would be worse off if they weren't there

The arrest of Shrikanth Pujari

Through its protests, BJP attempted to portray the government as 'anti-Hindu'

STATE OF PLAY

Girish Pattanashetti
girish.s@thehindu.co.in

On December 29, 2023, Shrikanth Pujari, an autorickshaw driver, was arrested in connection with the violence that followed the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992. Angry about the arrest, which was made just over a month before the inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Hindutva organisations such as the Vishva Hindu Parishad launched a campaign against the arrest of a "Ram Bhakt" and "kar sevak". The Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, R. Ashok, accused the Congress government of indulging in "appeasement politics" by reviving a three-decades-old case pertaining to the Ram Janmabhoomi agitations. The protesting groups refused to buy the explanation of the police that Mr. Pujari's arrest was part of a routine procedure to clear long-pending cases. Instead, they asked, why now? They alleged that the arrest was a targeted attack on "Ram Bhakts" to dissuade them from being part of the inauguration at Ayodhya and the local activities planned ahead of it.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah took to X to release a list of 16 cases against Mr. Pujari involving the sale of illicit liquor, gambling, and rioting. Justifying the arrest, the Chief Minister also released a list of 36 people arrested in connection with 26 other long-pending cases in the Hubballi-Dharwad commissionerate limits. He said that the BJP was getting "exposed" by defending a criminal who was "using religion as a shield." Local Congress MLA (Hubballi-Dharwad East) Prasad Abbayya accused the BJP of "standing in support of a history-sheeter" and trying to build a Hindu-Muslim narrative out of an arrest which had followed the normal procedure of law.

However, the BJP continued to escalate the issue by holding an agitation at Hubballi and across the State on January 3. Mr. Ashok and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Arvind Bellad, courted arrest in Hubballi. There were similar arrests across Karnataka. The same day, Ayodhya, too, witnessed protests over the issue. Leading a demonstration, Peethadheeshwar Jagadguru Paramhans Acharya of Tapaswi Camp in Ayodhya burnt the effigy of Siddaramaiah and demanded imposition of President's rule in Karnataka. Accusing the Siddaramaiah-led government of falsely implicating 300 kar sevaks for their alleged involvement in the Babri Masjid demolition, he even warned that the saints of Ayodhya would march to Karnataka.

The local BJP unit in the State followed this up with a campaign. Many BJP leaders posted pictures on social media holding placards that read "I am Ram Bhakt, arrest me too" in an attempt to portray the Congress government as "anti-Hindu." Meanwhile, a press conference held in Hubballi by Dharmadas, another accused in the same case of 1992 rioting, where he asked why no BJP leader had bothered to look into their grievances all these years, hardly caught any attention.

As of now, the ruling disposition in Karnataka has strongly defended the action taken against a "habitual offender" and has not heeded the demand for suspension of the police inspector who arrested Mr. Pujari. But these defences have not prevented the police inspector in question from suddenly going on leave "to attend to his ailing father."

After taking the issue to a crescendo and also threatening to continue their agitation, BJP leaders went silent following the release of Mr. Pujari, who was granted bail by a court in Hubballi on January 5. Mr. Pujari announced that he will be going to Ayodhya to attend the inauguration of the Ram Mandir on January 22 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A local BJP functionary said that the party cadres had "not been intimated" about any further agitations.

While this incident has died down, it is clear that the BJP will seize any such opportunity in the run-up the Lok Sabha elections. Meanwhile, the Karnataka government has announced that all Muzrai temples in the State will conduct a special pooja on January 22. Muzrai temples have also been asked to perform a *maha mangalarathi* (great worship ceremony) between 12.29 p.m. and 12.30 p.m., the time when the idol of Lord Rama will be installed at the temple in Ayodhya. When asked about his government's decision, even as Congress leaders in Delhi are yet to take a call on attending the event, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, "Ultimately we all are Hindus."

Indian tourists are important to the Maldives

The share of Indian tourists to the Maldives, where over 20% of the economy is dependent on tourism, is among the highest

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani
&Vignesh Radhakrishnan

During a recent visit to Lakshadweep, Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared photos of his trip on social media. Several users responded comparing the islands with the Maldives, located further down south in the Indian Ocean. This became a diplomatic row when three deputy ministers at the Youth Ministry of Maldives – Malsha Shareef, Maryam Shiuna and Mahzoom Majid – also commented on the posts on X making disparaging remarks against India and Mr. Modi. The Maldivian foreign ministry distanced itself from their remarks, saying their personal views did not represent the country's position. The Maldivian government suspended them.

Meanwhile, the comments led to an uproar on Indian social media, with many claiming that they were cancelling their scheduled trips to the Maldives. Whether this actually has an impact on tourist arrivals in the Maldives is yet to be seen. Indian celebrities also urged people to explore domestic tourist destinations, including Lakshadweep. A former sports minister of the Maldives, Ahmed Mahloof, expressed concern over the row saying "Indians boycotting the Maldives" will hit the country hard.

The strong reaction from the Maldivian government to the statements of the ministers is unsurprising as tourism is a major source of revenue for the archipelago. The number of hotels in the Maldives as well as tourist arrivals have grown significantly in recent years. **Chart 1** shows the number of resorts (including marinas), number of beds for tourists, and tourist arrivals between 2006 and 2022. The number of resorts shot up from 88 to 172, beds for tourists from over 16,000 to about 60,000, and tourist arrivals from 6 lakh to over 16 lakh in the period.

Chart 2 shows tourism revenue in million Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) and the tourism industry's contribution to the country's GDP (%) at constant prices between 2006 and 2022. In this period, the tourism revenue increased from 1,777 million MVR to 10,430 million MVR – a staggering 487% rise. Tourism continues to contribute over 20% of the country's GDP.

The high dependency on tourism was cited in a recent blog by the Asian Development Bank, which called for diversification of the Maldivian economy. In the 1980s, tourism contributed to only 13% of the GDP with fishing and agriculture being the main economic activities, the blog stated. In fact, the tourism industry may directly account for 20% of the GDP now, but the indirect contribution was as high as 80%, the blog said.

The timing of the 'boycott' calls on social media could also be a concern for the Maldivian government. If the 2022 data are taken as an example, the number of beds occupied over a month in resorts and hotels peaked in the January-March period, as shown in **Chart 3.** The number of tourist vessels operating also peaked in March and April. If the trends from the 2022 season are of any indication, a boycott call during the 2024 holiday season could result in serious revenue losses for the Maldives.

Indians contributed the most to tourism in the Maldives for three years consecutively (2020, 2021 and 2022). **Table 4** shows the top 10 nations in terms of citizenship of tourists who arrived in the Maldives between 2014 and 2023. India was placed fifth or lower before 2019. But since then, India has consistently occupied the top two positions. In 2023, Indian tourists formed close to 11% of the total arrivals, second only to Russians. If the calls on social media to 'boycott' the Maldives leads to a drop in Indian tourists to the archipelago, it could take a toll on the Maldivian economy.

In choppy waters

The data for the charts were sourced from the Maldives tourism Ministry and the Maldives Bureau of Statistics

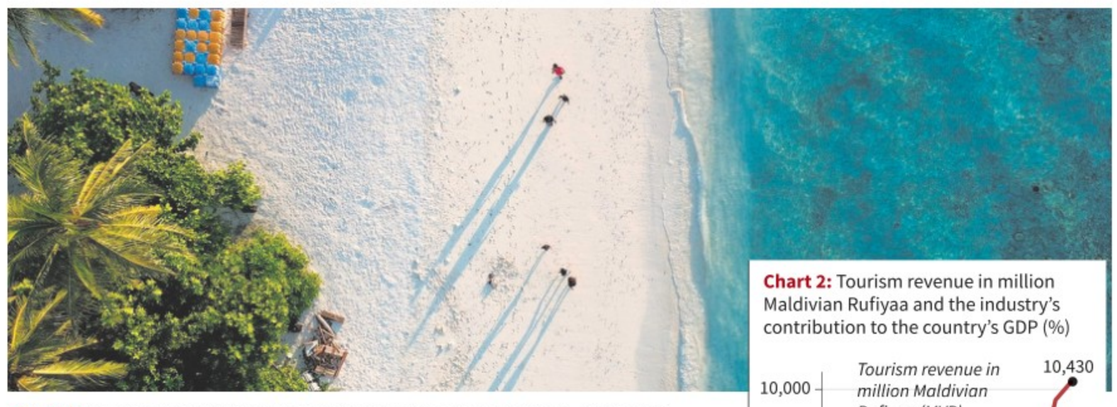

Chart 1: The chart shows the number of resorts (including marinas), number of beds for tourists, and tourist arrivals between 2006 and 2022

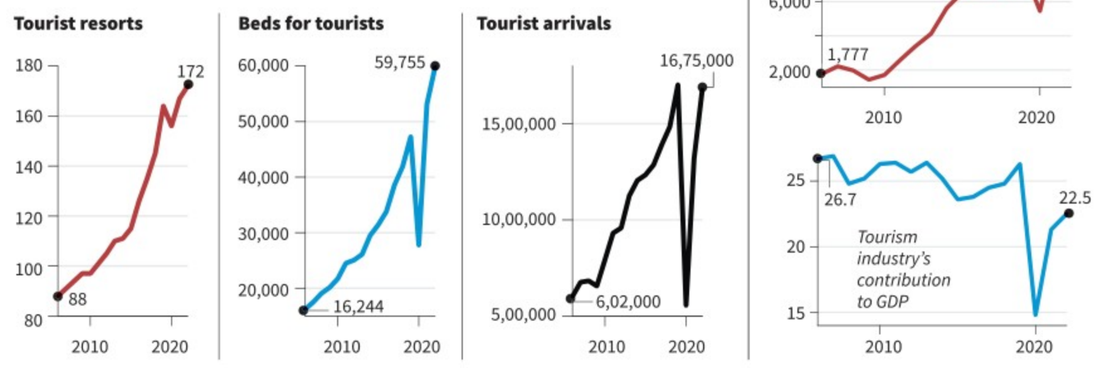

Chart 2: Tourism revenue in million Maldivian Rufiyaa and the industry's contribution to the country's GDP (%)

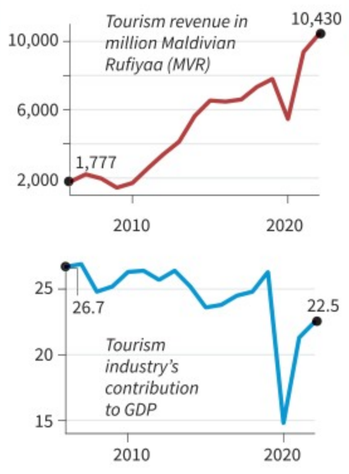

Chart 3: The chart shows the month-wise number of beds occupied in resorts, hotels, guest houses and tourist vessels in 2022

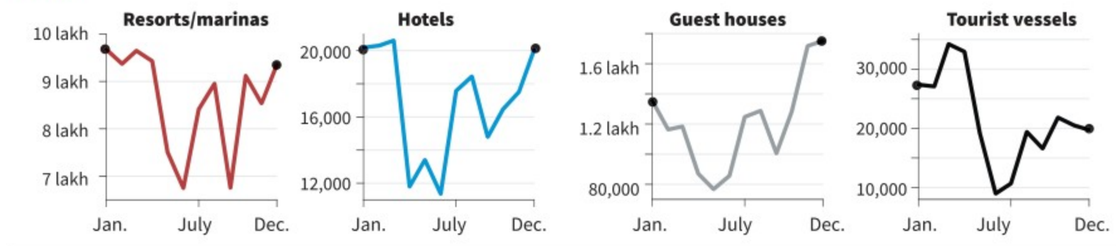

Table 4: The top 10 nations in terms of the citizenship of tourists who arrived in the Maldives between 2014 and 2023

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Russia	4	6	6	6	6	6	2	2	2	1
India	7	5	5	5	5	2	1	1	1	2
China	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	-	-	3
U.K.	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	4	3	4
Germany	2	2	2	2	2	4	5	3	4	5
Italy	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	10	5	6
France	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	9	7	8
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	9
Switzerland	10	10	10	-	-	-	9	-	10	10

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 10, 1974

What will the Arabs do with all the money?

Washington, Jan. 9: A special computer employed by the United States Commerce Department has come out with the scary prediction that if oil prices stay as high as they are now, the world's economy a decade from now will be in such a chaotic condition that all the old rules of the game which govern relations between nations will become utterly meaningless. The computer, using a price of $4 a barrel of crude (which has since been drastically increased by the oil producing countries), forecasts that the drain on the US as a result of a higher oil import bill would rise from $16 billions in 1975 to $52 billions in 1985. Arab oil producers, on the other hand, would have accumulated an enormous glut of dollars – in Saudi Arabia's case alone it would climb from $19 billions next year to $138 billions a decade later. At the increased prices now already in force, and with additional price hikes promised this spring, even these astronomical figures would be completely overshadowed. What will the Arabs do with all their "oil gotten gains," since they cannot put large sums to use in their own undeveloped and unindustrialised economies? As some economists see it, they might use it to buy up companies in the US and the West, but they might be wary about doing so, fearing they could be nationalised. They could become the new foreign aid providers to the rest of the third world, but few see the Arabs assuming that role in a big way.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 10, 1924

Historical records commission

The Indian Historical Records Commission opened sixth sessions this morning at the Museum Theatre, Egmore. His Excellency Lord Willingdon opened the sessions... The idea of establishing a local branch of the Commission in Madras would soon be a fact and His Excellency Lord Willingdon was sure it would be a useful one. It had been said that the records of the East India Company were the best historical material in the world and of these records, Madras would claim to possess a very fair share although not as much as was found in Calcutta. Though it was not quite as much as Bombay, it had certainly more than Punjab which regarded anything more than 60 years old as ancient. The Madras Records went back actually to 1670.

From Page One

737 MAX of Indian airline had missing part

Reports suggest that United Airlines has found loose bolts on as many as 10 aircraft. Alaska Airlines said in a statement on Monday that "initial reports from our technicians indicate some loose hardware was visible on some aircraft".

Following the U.S. incident, the Indian regulator also asked domestic airlines to check emergency doors on aircraft. The inspection did not yield any untoward findings. Indian airlines only have MAX-8 aircraft and not the MAX-9 that have been grounded in the U.S.

Boeing, in a statement, said, "As operators conduct the required inspections, we are staying in close contact with them and will help address any and all findings. We are committed to ensuring every Boeing airplane meets design specifications and the highest safety and quality standards. We regret the impact this has had on our customers and their passengers."

Boeing has seen several safety challenges with its 737 MAX and 787 jets in the past. The 737 MAX aircraft were also involved in two deadly crashes in 2018 and 2019 that killed nearly 350 people, leading to its worldwide ban for nearly 20 months. Since the return to service, Boeing has managed to expand its narrow-body presence in India and grabbed orders for its MAXs from Air India and Akasa. The planes being delivered to Indian players were initially ordered by different customers such as those in China, who halted their deliveries post the crashes. These grounded planes were then reactivated and delivered here.

'Most Indian cities far from clean air target'

When the programme was initiated, the aim was to cut pollution 20-40% by 2024 in this cities but this goalpost was later shifted to 2026.

While the deadline is still three years away, some of India's biggest cities are reporting marginal declines or even increasing pollution loads. Delhi, for instance, has seen average, annual PM 2.5 levels decline only 5.9%. Navi Mumbai, a suburb of Mumbai, has seen a 46% rise in PM 2.5 levels. Among the cities that showed a sharp decline in PM 2.5 from 2019-2023 were Varanasi, with a 72% average reduction in PM 2.5 levels and 69% reduction in PM 10 levels.

Another factor that significantly influences annual concentrations of pollutants in a city is the number and spread of continuous ambient air quality monitors – the devices that track fluctuations in chemical pollutants through the day. While cities such as Mumbai and Delhi have several such stations spread across the breadth of the cities to account for pollution in diverse areas, most Indian cities have only a handful.

Only four of the 92 cities part of the analysis have more than 10 such stations. Varanasi in 2019 had only one such station, which only worked 24% of the time whereas by 2024 it has four stations that have been operational all days. The vast majority of Indian cities have less than five stations.

Whether cities' actions have actually translated to improvement in air quality is as yet unclear. "The National Clean Air Programme has made noteworthy progress in tackling air pollution, witnessing notable reductions in PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels in top polluted cities, showing there have been efforts under way. Despite these positive strides, persistent challenges exist, with some urban areas facing an uptick in pollution concentrations," said Aarti Khosla, Director, Climate Trends.

Planned disruptions are against democracy: Birla

Lok Sabha Speaker bats for tough action when the dignity of House is compromised, says proceedings are often disrupted without logic or debate, leading to loss of productivity

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Tuesday that planned disruptions were detrimental to the spirit of democracy and incidents of compromising the dignity of the House called for tough measures.

Mr. Birla made the remarks after inaugurating a two-day orientation programme for new Madhya Pradesh MLAs at the Assembly here.

Om Birla interacting with Narendra Singh Tomar at the inauguration of an orientation programme in Bhopal. ANI

"In the past few years, the number of sittings as well as productivity of legislatures has decreased, on account of increasing incidents of House adjournments due to disruption and commotion," Mr. Birla said.

Some degree of disagreement, noise and uproar is natural on the floors of the House, but often heated debates result in disorder and chaos, leading to loss of time and resources which only reduces the credibility of legislatures among the people, he said.

'Not a good tradition'

"This new tradition has started to create disruptions in the Assembly Houses. Many a time, the Lok Sabha and the Assembly Houses are disrupted without any logic or debate, only for adjournments. This is not a good tradition and we should make attempts to end this tradition," he said, asking the representatives to promote meaningful and constructive discussions in the House.

"When every sincere effort is made for active participation of members in House proceedings, incidents of compromising the dignity of the House call for tough measures. Differences of opinion should not be translated into obstructing business of the House," he said.

Mr. Birla also said that no Speaker or presiding officer likes to suspend members but the dignity of legislature cannot be compromised. "We try to maintain the dignity of the House," he said.

During the just-concluded Winter Session of Parliament, 100 MPs from the Lok Sabha and 46 from the Rajya Sabha were suspended over protests on the security breach issue.

Speaking at the event, Leader of the Opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly and Congress MLA Umang Singhar pointed out that the number of House sittings had reduced in the past few years, depriving the members of opportunity to raise their issues.

"There was a time when there was a fear in the Assembly that if a question is asked, the officials were bound to give the right answer and the government also used to responsibly give justice in favour of the MLAs," he said.

Organised by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), Lok Sabha Secretariat, in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat, the two-day programme will see legislators and experts discuss various subjects on House functioning.

Privileges panel to seek responses from 11 suspended MPs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A member of the panel indicates that the report will be prepared based on the responses

The Privileges Committee of the Rajya Sabha, in a meeting held in New Delhi on Tuesday, decided to seek responses from 11 members suspended on charges of breach of privilege during the recently concluded Winter Session of Parliament. Their suspension is pending till the report of the panel, headed by Deputy Chairman Harivansh, is tabled in the Rajya Sabha.

During the Winter Session, the Rajya Sabha suspended 46 MPs over protests on the Parliament security breach episode. Of them, 35 MPs were suspended till the end of the Winter Session. The remaining 11 continue to be under suspension, pending the report.

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar referred the suspension of the 11 MPs – Binoy Viswam, Jebi Mather, John Brittas, A.A. Rahim, P. Santhosh Kumar, M.M. Abdulla, L. Hanumanthaiah, Neeraj Dangi, Rajmani Patel, Kumar Ketkar and G.C. Chandrasekhar – to the Privileges Committee to see if their actions within the chamber amounted to breach of privilege of other MPs. Mr. Ketkar is a member of the Privileges Committee.

A senior member of the panel, on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday's meeting was its first on the issue of suspension. "We have received the Chairman's recommendation on the suspensions. We will seek responses from the suspended MPs. Based on the written responses, we will take a decision whether to summon them before the panel or not," the member said. He indicated that if the responses are satisfactory, the panel may prepare its report based on that.

Another source on the panel said the committee will hold its meeting soon and the suspended MPs may get less than 10 days to send their responses. "We are trying to table the report on the first day of the next session," he added.

India, U.K. ink 2 deals during Rajnath's visit

The Hindu Bureau
LONDON

India and the United Kingdom on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a bilateral international cadet exchange programme and a Letter of Arrangement (LoA) on defence collaboration in research and development. These were signed after bilateral talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his British counterpart, Grant Shapps, in London.

"Had an excellent meeting with UK Defence Minister, Grant Shapps. We reviewed the full range of India-UK defence relations. We had fruitful discussions on a wide range of issues pertaining to defence cooperation, security and also on enhancing defence industrial cooperation," Mr. Singh said on 'X' about his two-day visit.

Mr. Shapps stressed that the relationship between the U.K. and India was not transactional, and both countries were natural partners with many commonalities and shared goals, the Ministry said.

The LoA on R&D was signed between the Defence Research and Development Organisation and the U.K.'s Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. "These documents will provide impetus to the people-to-people exchanges particularly among the youth, and larger area of defence research collaboration between the two countries," the Ministry said. Mr. Singh began his London engagements by paying floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his statue at Tavistock Square.

ED names Rabri Devi, daughters in chargesheet in land-for-jobs scam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday filed a chargesheet naming Rabri Devi, wife of former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad, their daughters Misa Bharati and Hema Yadav, and four others in connection with the land-for-job scam case.

The others named are Hridayanand Chaudhary, an alleged beneficiary; Amit Katyal, former director of AK Infosystems Private Limited; AK Infosystems, and AB Exports Private Limited, through common director Shariqul Bari. The agency arrested Mr. Katyal in November.

The ED case is based on a first information report (FIR) registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on May 18, 2022, against Mr. Prasad and others in the same matter. Last July, the CBI filed a second chargesheet against the former Railway Minister, Ms. Rabri Devi, their son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, and 14 others.

Rabri Devi

Former West Central Railway (WCR) General Manager Maheep Kapur, former WCR Chief Personnel Officers Manoj Pande and P. L. Bankar; AK Infosystems; and Dil Chand Kumar, Gyan Chand Rai, Hazari Rai, Mahesh Singh, Dhanif Ansari, Shatrudhan Rai, Vishwakarma Rai, Ashok Kumar Yadav, Ram Briksh Yadav, and Rajnath Singh were also named.

The CBI alleged that from 2004 to 2009, several substitutes for Group D posts were appointed in different zones of the Railways in exchange for land parcels. The beneficiaries (from Patna in Bihar) themselves or through their family members, allegedly sold or gifted their land to Mr. Prasad's family members and the private company controlled by them.

The named company was used for the transfer of properties to Mr. Prasad's family members, it is alleged.

The CBI alleges that no advertisements or public notices were issued for the vacancies. Despite this, beneficiaries were inducted into the zonal railways in Kolkata, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Hazipur and Mumbai. Their applications and documents were collected and sent to the WCR for further processing. Here it is alleged that under the influence of the main accused, the general managers cleared the applications. The substitutes were later regularised.

The CBI filed the first chargesheet against Mr. Prasad and 15 other accused persons in October 2022.

Panel can look into ST status of Chin Kukis: Biren

Press Trust of India
IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Tuesday said that an all-tribe committee would be formed to decide if the Chin Kuki community should be excluded from the State's Scheduled Tribes list.

The statement came in the wake of a letter by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs seeking the State government's views on the demand for deletion of the "nomadic Chin Kuki" community from Manipur's ST list. The demand was made by Maheshwar Thounaojam, National Secretary of the Republican Party of India (Athawale), who claimed that members of that community are not indigenous people of India but immigrants.

"They were included in the (ST) list of Manipur but how they were included needs to be re-examined," Mr. Singh told reporters.

Ahead of verdict, Uddhav slams Speaker for visiting Shinde twice

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Maharashtra Speaker Rahul Narwekar's verdict on the disqualification proceedings against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his Shiv Sena MLAs will determine whether democracy is alive or not in this country, Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said on Tuesday. Mr. Narwekar is expected to read out the judgment in the Assembly after 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

Ahead of the much-anticipated verdict, Mr. Thackeray cast aspersions on the 'quality' of Mr. Narwekar's justice. "Since the SC's direction to the Speaker to give a judgment on the disqualification case, Mr. Narwekar has twice met Mr. Shinde in private. It is akin to the judge meeting the accused. If he is doing that, then there is a serious question on what kind of justice can we expect," he said.

Uddhav Thackeray expressed apprehension that the Speaker will further delay the reading of the judgment in the case. PTI

The Sena (UBT) had submitted an affidavit to the SC on the matter, he added.

Speaking to reporters at his residence 'Matoshree' in Mumbai, heaccused the Speaker of procrastination and expressed apprehension that Mr. Narwekar could drag the reading of the verdict to seek another extension in the case.

The previous deadline set by the SC for delivering the verdict was December 31. However, on December 15, the top court gave a 10-day extension and set January 10 as the new date for a decision.

Responding to Mr. Thackeray's allegations, Mr. Narwekar said the charges were being made only to "put pressure on the decision-making process" and that his meeting with Mr. Shinde was previously scheduled.

"I have stated this before and will say it again that such statements are being uttered only to put pressure on me... Nowhere is it said that the Speaker cannot do any other tasks when this process was on. There are a number of issues pertaining to the Assembly of which the CM is a member. As an MLA myself, I will have a number of matters related to my Assembly constituency. I do not think I need to explain myself to someone," Mr. Narwekar said.

Dismissing the allegations as "baseless," Mr. Shinde said the Opposition had no other work but to indulge in such accusations.

Stating that he expected the verdict to be based "on merit", Mr. Shinde said his government had been formed in "a perfectly legitimate manner" and his party had the majority of the Shiv Sena MLAs and MPs right from the start.

Expressing belief that Mr. Narwekar would give an appropriate judgement, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis said the stability of the present government led by Mr. Shinde would remain unaffected.

In a first since 2019, Hurriyat chief steps out of Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Kashmir's chief cleric and Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has been allowed to travel to New Delhi, for the first time since he was placed under house arrest in August 2019.

A spokesman of the Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid said, "The Mirwaz-e-Kashmir was allowed by the authorities to travel to New Delhi on Monday. The Mirwaiz had conveyed the personal nature of his visit, after which the authorities gave him permission."

Major separatist leaders in J&K are either in jail or barred from holding any political activity, after the Centre abrogated Article 370 in J&K in 2019. It was followed by a massive crackdown on separatists and their supporters. It's the first time that any senior separatist leader has been allowed to travel outside J&K since 2019.

NewsClick HR head made approver in case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday allowed the human resources (HR) head of *NewsClick*, Amit Chakraborty, to turn an approver in the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) case against him and the founder of the news portal, Prabir Purkayastha, over allegations that their organisation received money to spread pro-China propaganda.

Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur of Patiala House Courts also granted pardon to Mr. Chakraborty as he had moved an application in court last month, seeking permission to turn approver. In his application, he had maintained that he was in possession of "material information" about the case which he was willing to disclose to the Delhi Police.

The development came days after the court granted the Delhi Police a 60-day extension of judicial custody to complete its investigation into the case.

APPEAL

Baby Kabilan is a 4 years old child suffering from Relapse Neuroblastoma and needs Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.7,00,000/-. His family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to have a bright future. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No.:6018201006331O, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.**

WWS

Congress's Nyay Yatra to get permit only after security review, says Manipur CM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh on Tuesday said a decision on the Congress's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra would be taken after reviewing reports from the security agencies.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to launch the yatra from Manipur capital Imphal on January 14.

Mr. Singh told pressmen in Imphal that the security scenario in the State continued to be critical. "The granting of permission for Rahul Gandhi's rally is under active consideration. We are reviewing the reports of various security agencies," he said.

The yatra entails traversing through parts of Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat before concluding in Mumbai.

N. Biren Singh

The Congress said the government had no justification for not allowing the rally as it was not political in nature. "We are yet to receive the permission for the yatra despite giving an application to the Centre for approval. Our Manipur unit also applied to the (State's) Chief Secretary for permission a week ago but they are telling us they cannot give the sanction and that our application has been sent to Delhi for approval," Congress general secretary, K.C. Venugopal said in Guwahati.

He said the Congress chose to start the march from Manipur in a bid to heal the wounds of the people affected by the ethnic violence since May 3, 2023. Close to 200 people have been killed and some 60,000 more displaced by the conflict. "Rahul Gandhi conducted a yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir by walking 4,000 km. We raised the issue of unemployment and price rise. Through this yatra, we are focusing on the common man's issues, including the huge unemployment problem," Mr. Venugopal said.

"We do not want to politicise the Manipur issue at all. We need to feel the pulse of the people and give a message that we are with the people of Manipur. That is why we decided to start the yatra from the State," he said.

He said the Centre and the Manipur government failed to understand the idea behind the yatra, alleging that the BJP did not believe in democratic processions.

In Maharashtra, INDIA strikes seat-sharing deal

Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and Sharad Pawar-led NCP agree to share the 48 seats in the State; Congress and Sena likely to contest 18-20 seats each and NCP may get eight to 10

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Tuesday agreed on a seat-sharing plan for the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra.

The three parties are part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the State and the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

The meeting also saw the allies agree on inducting Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi into the State and national alliances.

Sources said there was a broad agreement on most of the seats but differences still persist over seven or eight. Another meeting is likely to resolve these differences, said a source.

Holding talks: Sanjay Raut with Ashok Gehlot address the media after INDIA bloc meeting in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

"All of us, members of the MVA, have come out smiling. In these times of struggle, all of us are together. We will stay together and fight elections together," Shiv Sena leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut told pressmen after the meeting.

"We discussed each and every seat and there is a broad consensus among all," he said.

Asked about the exact breakdown of seats among the allies, he said, "That number will come later".

There is no official word on the exact division, but the Congress and the Sena could contest 18-20 seats each and the NCP may get eight to 10.

"There is no problem and Maharashtra will be the first State to announce seat sharing," the Congress's Maharashtra incharge, Ramesh Chennithala, told *The Hindu*.

The National Alliance Committee of the Congress also held talks with Ram Gopal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party (SP) for Uttar Pradesh.

Sources said there was no discussion on the number of seats as the meeting was seen an ice-breaker between the two parties after frosty relations in the recent past because of the Congress's refusal to share seats in the recent Assembly election in Madhya Pradesh.

Another meeting will be held on January 12 to discuss the Uttar Pradesh seat-sharing plan.

Asked if the Bahujan Samaj Party can be part of an alliance in the State, Mr. Yadav said, "There is no such thing. We have not heard from anyone except you people in the press."

Meghalaya Cong. against alliance with Trinamool

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Two key partners of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance in the northeast seem to have struck a discordant note.

The Meghalaya unit of the Congress said it was not keen on tying up with the Trinamool Congress for the Lok Sabha election. Meghalaya has two constituencies. "We have told our central leadership that we do not favour an alliance with the Trinamool for the upcoming elections," MP and Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Committee president Vincent H. Pala said in Tura on Monday.

He said the Trinamool seemed to have gone quiet in Meghalaya after the Assembly election almost a year ago.

Less than a week ago, the Trinamool was critical of the Congress during the election to the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council in Assam.

Partially built temple is being inaugurated in Ayodhya for political gains: Shankaracharyas

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to inaugurate the "semi-constructed" Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22 and the Vishva Hindu Parishad has taken over its consecration for "political gains", top religious leaders have said.

Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, the 145th Jagadguru Shankaracharya of the Purvamnaya Govardhana Peetham of Puri, said on Tuesday that since Mr. Modi was doing the consecration puja, he would not attend the ceremony.

"When Modi*ji* will do the consecration at the temple and will touch the idol, will I be going there to clap," he asked while speaking to presspersons.

In progress: Work on the Ram Temple going on in Ayodhya on December 26. R.V. MOORTHY

He said people need to think what remained for the *dharmacharya* (religious teacher) to do in Ayodhya if the Prime Minister was doing everything. However, he praised Mr. Modi for not portraying himself as a secular leader and showing full respect to *Sanatan Dharma*. "The Prime Minister is doing everything, even teaching yoga and now doing the consecration, which is done by seers and saints," he said.

Talking on similar lines, Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati, the 1,008th Shankaracharya of the Jyotish Peeth in Uttarakhand, said the inauguration of the partially constructed temple was being done only for political gains.

"Traditions are not being followed in the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. In India, the king and the religious leaders have always been separate, but now the political leader is being made the religious leader. This is against traditions and is being done for political gains," he said.

He said that in any temple, no entry or consecration could happen before the construction work was completed. "The temple has not been completely constructed. In such a situation, the consecration is not up to the traditions in Hinduism," he added.

In a media interaction, Champat Rai, general secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra (Ram Temple Trust) and senior VHP leader, said the Ram Mandir belonged to the people of the Ramanand sect and not to Shankaracharyas, 'Shaivas' and 'Shaktas'. Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati said then Mr. Rai must resign and hand over the temple to the Ramanand sect.

Modi, Shah, Nadda to visit almost every State in run-up to election

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit almost every State before mid-March ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

After visits to Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, and Gujarat, he will go to Maharashtra, followed by Bihar on January 13 and possibly Jharkhand.

BJP sources said that while the January 22 consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya was a major undertaking by the Sangh Parivar, the Prime Minister's travel schedule would be going on side by side. The aim was to have Mr. Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP president J.P. Nadda visit almost all the States before the announcement of the election dates.

Mr. Nadda will be in Assam on Wednesday for the BJP's State executive and core committee meetings. He will then visit Arunachal Pradesh, again meeting the State unit's core group. The Arunachal Assembly election will be held along with the Lok Sabha election.

Narendra Modi at a roadshow in Thrissur on January 3.

"The plan is to have one round of visits by Mr. Modi, with a public function and a roadshow in the places that he is visiting, and all before dates for the elections are announced," a source said. Visits by senior leadership pump up the BJP workers for the contest ahead, the source added.

The BJP has drawn up elaborate plans for its campaign, first with party workers being mobilised, and then constituency visits of senior party leaders who have been made in charge of clusters of four or five constituencies.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, with his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, is also going to hit the road.

Yogi declares holiday for educational institutions

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday issued instructions for the declaration of holiday in all educational institutions across the State on the day of Ram Temple consecration ceremony, January 22.

The Chief Minister described the special occasion as a 'national festival', and said liquor shops should be kept closed in Uttar Pradesh on January 22.

Advani will attend Ram Temple consecration: VHP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Tuesday said that veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader L.K. Advani, who spearheaded the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, would be attending the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22.

Alok Kumar, the VHP's working president, while speaking to *The Hindu*, said that Mr. Advani may not attend the full event, considering his advanced age.

Speaking about Murli Manohar Joshi, another BJP veteran who was at the forefront in the Ram temple movement, Mr. Kumar said that final confirmation from him was yet to be received, but he was positive about attending the ceremony.

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Period of completion : - **06** (Six) calendar months.

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OCCL-LICP/01/ 2023-24	903.96 Lakhs	9.04 Lakhs	13.01.2024, 3.30 P.M. to 29.01.2024, 5.30 P.M.	13.01.2024, 3.30 P.M. to 29.01.2024, 5.30 P.M.

Procurement Officer - **Managing Director, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar**
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Sl. No.	Post code & Vacancy details	Essential Qualification
1.	TA20231 [Total = 09 posts] [UR-01 SC-01, ST-01, OBC (NCL)-03, EWS-03] (Out of 09 posts, 01 post is reserved for PwBD : D&HH),	Diploma in Civil Engineering / Technology of at least 3 years full time duration, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field. **OR** Diploma in Civil Engineering / Technology of at least 02 years full time duration in case of lateral admission in diploma course, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field.
2.	TA20232 [Total = 03 posts] [UR-01, SC-01, OBC (NCL)-01] (Out of 03 posts, 01 post is reserved for PwBD : OH),	Diploma in Architecture Engineering of at least 3 years full time duration, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field. **OR** Diploma in Architecture Engineering of at least 02 years full time duration in case of lateral admission in diploma course, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field.
3.	TA20233 [Total = 02 posts] [UR-01 & OBC(NCL)-01]	Diploma in Electrical Engineering / Technology of at least 3 years full time duration, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field. **OR** Diploma in Electrical Engineering / Technology of at least 02 years full time duration in case of lateral admission in diploma course, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field.
4.	TA20234 [Total = 01 post] [UR-01]	Diploma in Electronics Engineering / Technology of at least 3 years full time duration, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field. **OR** Diploma in Electronics Engineering / Technology of at least 02 years full time duration in case of lateral admission in diploma course, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field.
5.	TA20235 [Total = 03 posts] [UR-01,OBC(NCL)- 01 & EWS-01]	Diploma in Information Technology of at least 3 years full time duration, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field. **OR** Diploma in Information Technology of at least 02 years full time duration in case of lateral admission in diploma course, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field.
6.	TA20236 [Total = 01 post] [UR-01]	Diploma in Mechanical Engineering / Technology of at least 3 years full time duration, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field. **OR** Diploma in Mechanical Engineering / Technology of at least 02 years full time duration in case of lateral admission in diploma course, with minimum 60% marks and experience of 02 years in the relevant area/ field.
7.	TA20237 [Total = 02 posts] [ST-01 & OBC (NCL)-01]	B.Sc. Chemistry or equivalent, with minimum 60% marks and one year experience in relevant discipline from a recognized Institute / Organization. **OR** B.Sc. Chemistry or equivalent, with minimum 60% marks and one year full time professional qualification.
8.	TA20238 [Total = 01 post] [UR-01]	B.Sc. Physics or equivalent, with minimum 60% marks and one year experience in relevant discipline from a recognized Institute / Organization. **OR** B.Sc. Physics or equivalent, with minimum 60% marks and one year full time professional qualification.
9.	TA20239 [Total = 01 post] [UR-01]	B.Sc. Geology or equivalent, with minimum 60% marks and one year experience in relevant discipline from a recognized Institute / Organization **OR** B.Sc. Geology or equivalent, with minimum 60% marks and one year full time professional qualification.
10.	TA202310 [Total = 01 post] [UR-01]	B.Sc. or equivalent, with minimum 60% marks and B.Lib.Sc.

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Administrative Officer

INBRIEF

NEET-PG exam rescheduled to July 7, says medical board

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Postgraduate examination has been rescheduled to July 7 this year, the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences said on Tuesday. The cut-off date for the purpose of eligibility for the exam this year is August 15. The exam was earlier scheduled to be held on March 3. "In supersession of NBEMS notice dated 09.11.2023 and pursuant to the receipt of NMC letter dated January 3, 2024, the conduct of NEET-PG 2024 examination, which was earlier notified to be tentatively held on March 3, 2024, stands rescheduled," the NBEMS said in a notice. "The NEET-PG 2024 shall now be conducted on July 7, 2024," it said. PTI

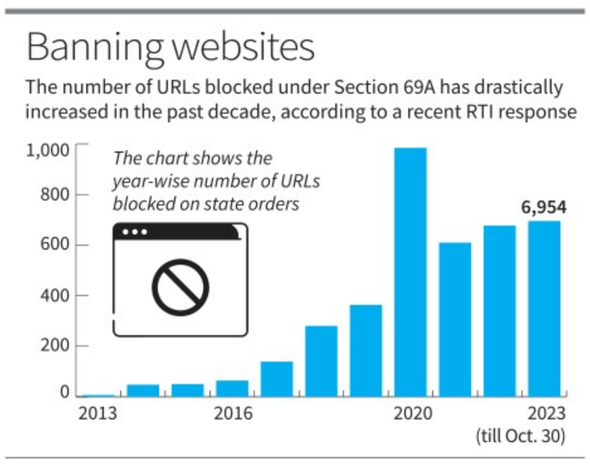
1984 riots: Tytler instigated mob, CBI says in court

Congress leader and former Member of Parliament Jagdish Tytler instigated the mob near Pul Bangash, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said during its final arguments in a Delhi court on the framing of charges in a case related to the 1984 anti-Sikh violence which followed the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The CBI made this charge before Special Judge Rakesh Syal while presenting statements of four eyewitnesses who confirmed that Congress leaders were present when three people were murdered during the violence at Pul Bangash. The agency has invoked charges of rioting and murder against Mr. Tytler.

Rapid rise in Web blocking orders, shows RTI reply

The increase has coincided with a massive uptick in Internet use; Telecom Department seeks easier portal blocking; the Ministry has not given breakdown of statistics, citing confidentiality

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI



Website blocking orders have grown over a 100-fold from 2013 to October 2023, shows a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the Bihar-based activist Kanhaiya Kumar.

Mr. Kumar obtained statistics on website and online post blocking orders issued under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The Union government issued 62 such orders in 2013, and in 2023, 6,954 till October. This comes even as the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in December, directed Internet service providers (ISPs) to compile Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of servers in India, to facilitate blocking them quickly.

Fall in data prices

The increase in blocking orders has coincided with a massive uptick in Internet use, specifically since mobile data prices fell dramatically in 2016. The data reflect blocking orders sent to social media and content firms for specific pages, profiles and videos. However, the IT Ministry refused to provide a breakdown of these statistics, citing the confidentiality clause in the rules.

Most of the webpages blocked are likely to be individual posts, videos or profiles. In 2022, the Union government said in response to a parliamentary query that 228 websites were blocked. When other orders, such as those sent directly to social media and online content providers, are factored in, the number for that year is 6,775.

Section 69A of the IT Act allows the Union government to block content online in the "interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognisable offence".

List of IP addresses

"Location of web/application servers need to be traced on immediate basis as and when required or in case they are not complying with the laws of the land or they are required to be blocked as per [court orders], etc.," the DoT said in its December 20 order.

Two persons with experience in how ISPs are run said these rules might be impractical and difficult to implement. "The scale of this ask is enormous," said Deepak Maheshwari, former secretary at the ISP Association of India. IP addresses are often purchased in bulk by data centre providers and Web hosting firms, and these entities may have corporate security concerns on having these IP addresses declared to ISPs, he said.

Another industry expert with over a decade of experience in Internet networking technologies, who did not want to be named, said website blocking had become much harder due to evolutions in the encryption technologies used by Web browsers and firms, increasingly blurring the level of visibility that Internet providers have on their users' activity. "A single IP address can be linked to thousands of websites," the expert said. "Telecom operators are just 'dumb pipes,'" he added.

If the DoT wanted more convenience in blocking websites, he suggested, they would have to collaborate with content delivery networks (CDNs) who actually distribute much of the Internet's content, such as Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud and Cloudflare.

Music maestro Rashid Khan passes away at 55

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Ustad Rashid Khan during a concert at the Music Academy in Chennai.

Hindustani classical singer and music maestro Ustad Rashid Khan passed away in Kolkata on Tuesday. He was 55 and is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. The vocalist had cancer and had been admitted to a private health facility in Kolkata in November.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who met the bereaved family in the hospital, described Mr. Khan as "truly a world-famous classical Indian vocal artist". Ms. Banerjee said the maestro's body would be kept at Rabindra Sadan, the State's cultural complex, on Wednesday and the final rites will be held with full state honours, including a gun salute.

State honours

Rashid Khan was born in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh, and he received his initial training from his maternal granduncle, Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan (1909-1993). He held his first concert at the age of 11. In April 1980, when Nissar Hussain Khan moved to Kolkata, Rashid Khan came to the city with him. He joined the ITC Sangeet Research Academy at the age of 14. By 1994, he was acknowledged as a musician (a formal process) at the academy.

Nissar Hussain Khan was a strict disciplinarian who would insist on voice training from 4 a.m. He would make Rashid practise one note of the scale for a whole day. Ghulam Mustafa Khan was among the first to note his musical talent, and for some time, trained him in Mumbai.

Rashid Khan was an exponent of the Rampur-Sahaswan *gayaki* (style of singing), which is closely related to the Gwalior gharana. This kind of singing features medium-slow tempos, a full-throated voice and intricate rhythmic play. Rashid Khan's renderings stand out for the emotional overtones in his melodic elaboration. "The emotional content may be in the *alaap*, sometimes while singing the *bandish*, or while giving expression to the meaning of the lyrics," a website dedicated to the singer quoted the vocalist as saying.

The vocalist won several awards including the Padma Shri and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2006. In 2022, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award of the country. The West Bengal government also honoured Ustad Rashid Khan with Banga Bibhushan and Sangeet Mahasamman.

West Bengal Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said that his demise "would create a huge void in the sphere of music, especially Hindustani classical music".

Rashid Khan's style of singing was influenced by legends such as Amir Khan and Bhimsen Joshi and included the slow elaboration in his *vilambit khayals* in the manner of his maternal grandfather. He had also developed exceptional expertise in the use of *sargams* and *sargam taankari* (play on the scale). Rashid Khan was also a master of the *tarana* like his guru but later he made his style of rendition as his own signature in the landscape of Indian classical music.

Singer Usha Uthup said Rashid Khan was "one of the best vocalists in the world" and the "complete consummate singer". She said that Rashid Khan was gone too soon. Vocalist Haimanti Shukla described Rashid Khan as a "great human being" who always worked for the welfare of performers.

Rashid Khan also experimented with fusing pure Hindustani music with lighter musical genres – for instance, in the Sufi fusion recording *Naina Piya Se* (Amir Khusro), or in experimental concerts with western instrumentalist Louis Banks. He also performed *jugalbandis*, with sitarist Shahid Parvez and others. Rashid Khan gave his voice to a number of songs in Hindi and Bengali films from 2004 to 2019. The most popular songs are *Aaoge Jab Tum Saajna* in *Jab We Met* in 2007, *Alah Hi Rahem* in *My Name Is Khan* in 2010 and *Bol Ke Lab Azad Hain* in the film *Manto* in 2018.

Committee discusses norms to rein in coaching institutes that make misleading claims

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Panel discusses draft norms that prescribe conditions when an ad shall be construed to be misleading

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) on Monday held the first meeting of a committee constituted to prepare guidelines on misleading advertisements in the coaching sector. The committee, the Centre said in a release, also discussed a draft of the guidelines.

The Chairman of the committee and Secretary of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Rohit Kumar Singh, said protection of consumers' interest was a paramount concern to the CCPA. He said there should be clarity, specifically in addressing certain aspects related to advertisements in the coaching sector. "The CCPA firmly believes in safeguarding the rights of consumers and ensuring that no false or misleading advertisement is made of any goods or services which contravenes the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The guidelines shall be applicable to all the coaching institutes whether online or physical and cover all forms of advertisement, regardless of form, format or medium," Mr. Singh said.

The guidelines prescribe conditions when an advertisement by a coaching institute shall be construed to be misleading. "The guidelines also provide that coaching institutes should not make false claims regarding success rates or number of selections and any other practices that may lead to consumer misunderstanding or subvert consumer autonomy and choice," the release said.

The coaching institutes should mention information such as the rank secured by successful candidate, course opted, duration of course, fee paid or free, and so on. "The coaching institutes should not make claims of 100% selection or 100% job guaranteed or guaranteed preliminary or mains. The font of disclaimer/disclosure in the advertisement shall be the same as that used in the claim/advertisement," the guidelines said.

Modi holds roadshow with UAE President in Gujarat, opens global trade summit

The Hindu Bureau
GANDHINAGAR

Narendra Modi receives UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened the Global Trade Show here on Tuesday. He held a three-km roadshow with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and bilateral meetings with the President of Timor-Leste José Ramos-Horta and Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi in Gandhinagar. He will open the Vibrant Gujarat Summit on Wednesday.

The PM met the Timor-Leste President at the Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre on Tuesday morning. The Centre is the venue for the Vibrant Summit.

Bilateral meetings

Mr. Horta was the first head of state to arrive in Ahmedabad on Monday evening. During the bilateral meeting, Mr. Modi offered assistance to Timor-Leste in capacity building, human resource development, IT, fintech, energy and healthcare, traditional medicine and pharma.

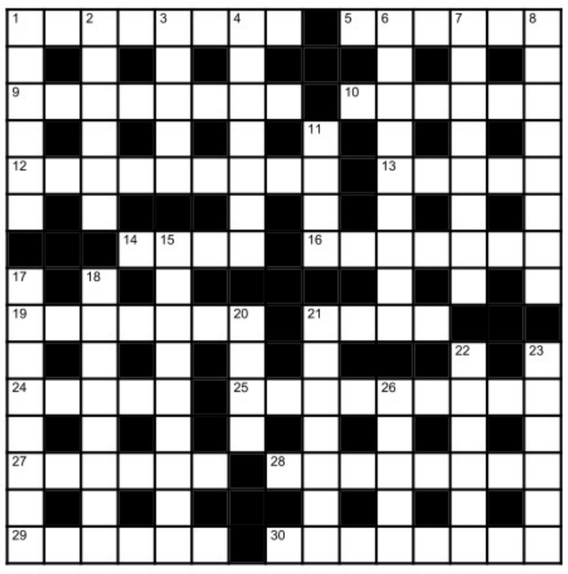
He invited Timor-Leste to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), a government statement said. Mr. Horta expressed "strong support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council", the statement said.

CROSSWORD + 14068

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Perhaps Gandhiji's condition is breaking agreement (8)
5 Birds starting to eat fishes? No, no! (6)
9 Additional information about arcane Byzantine organ (8)
10 Fight could result in this part of leg getting twisted again (6)
12 Study to improve living conditions and develop the US? Nice! (9)
13 Boy measures devices (5)
14 Auditor's function is to endorse (4)
16 Argument is stupid - unfortunately ending in heartache (7)
19 Long-distance traveller with possibly silly, often boring applications (7)
21 Airmen circling around Spain creating scare (4)
24 Underworld boss scuttled NASA rocket finally (5)
25 Action to close a deal and help banks to cover outrageous scandal (9)
27 Moved cautiously and made an arrest, without using power (6)
28 Demon king about to approach a fictional island (8)
29 Excellent attempt by student to study (6)
30 Working girl - essentially free, footloose, not bound (8)

Down

1 Stroke young animal in front - one controlled by a string (6)
2 Pretty home for an old English king (6)
3 Power of opponent winning every other race (5)
4 Locate trains and trams, originally in a suburb of Mumbai (7)
6 Bachata dancing outside a small Canadian lake (9)
7 Nothing to counter liquid that corrodes floor covering (8)
8 Leaves without speaking at first, upset and tense (8)
11 Second-hand house discounted partly (4)
15 Dishonest...elected because rivals exited, basically (9)
17 Traitor with one weapon stalks queen (8)
18 Enigmatic maiden to amuse while talking (8)
20 Very short journey to reach London district (4)
21 France, not just a place for entertainment! (7)
22 Primarily, spiritual awakening to one's real "I"? (6)
23 Show a soft fruit (6)
26 Kanchi king lost intricate ornament (5)

SUDOKU

6				2				
2		5			4	7		
		8	6				4	2
	1			4	3			
	5						1	
			1	5			2	
9	2				7	1		
		7	8			2		3
				6				7

No.SS6034 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	B		M		C		S		B		M		C	
A	L	S	O			O	P	T	I	O	N	A	L	L	Y
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A	C	T	S	U	P			P	A	L	A	D	I	N	S
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A	S	S	E	S	S	E	E			V	E	N	I	C	E
	M		U				D		E				R	
P	I	E	R		H	U	G	E	R		P	L	U	G
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C	H	O	S	E	N			S	U	D	A	N	E	S	E
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D	I	P	T	H	O	N	G		A	G	H	A	S	T
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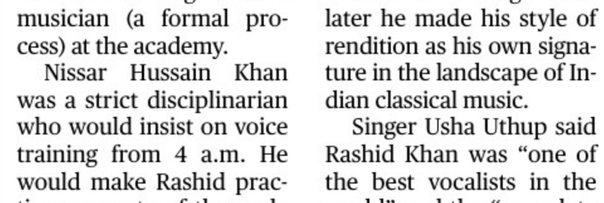
G	E	O	R	G	E	B	U	S	H		N	A	I	L
	X		N		R		R		M		T		P	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	4	5	6	9	3	1	2
6	3	5	2	7	1	8	9	4
1	9	2	4	8	3	5	7	6
4	7	8	9	3	5	2	6	1
5	1	9	7	2	6	4	8	3
2	6	3	1	4	8	7	5	9
9	4	6	8	5	2	1	3	7
8	2	1	3	9	7	6	4	5
3	5	7	6	1	4	9	2	8



FAITH

Andal's prayers to Krishna

Male Manivanna, Tiruppavai pasuram recited on the 26th day of Margazhi, is Andal's earnest prayer to Krishna for everything, including Himself, said Dhamal Perundevi in a discourse. In the previous Tiruppavai pasuram, Andal appreciates the nuances of Krishna avatar, while surrendering to Him. In *Male Manivanna*, she prays to Krishna seeking various things for conducting the *Margazhi nonbu*. When Krishna asks, "Did you not sought *saranagati* with Me earlier, or did you pray only for things? Andal says, "Our aim is to find You but for that we need to perform this *nombu*, as was done by our ancestors."

Andal proceeds to pray for the *panchajanyam*, the milky white conch of Krishna, adding at least five lakh conches were needed since that was the number of women devotees with her. She then seeks *sala perum parai*, the musical instrument that Krishna played during *Rasa Krida*. She will not settle for the *parai* used by Jambhavan while circumventing him as Trivikrama. Andal demands *Nappinnai*, His Consort, to dispel darkness and light up the inner self.

Krishna grants everything and asks Andal if she is happy. She says without Him she cannot be happy and prays to Him to remain as Vatapatrasayi in Srivilliputtur. Krishna grants that prayer as well.

PARIS

Gabriel Attal picked as France's youngest and first openly gay PM

AFP

French President Emmanuel Macron picked Gabriel Attal as Prime Minister, with the 34-year-old becoming France's youngest and first openly gay head of government after Elizabeth Borne resigned. A wider Cabinet reshuffle is expected this week as Macron seeks to sharpen his team for the final three years of his presidency. AFP

SEOUL

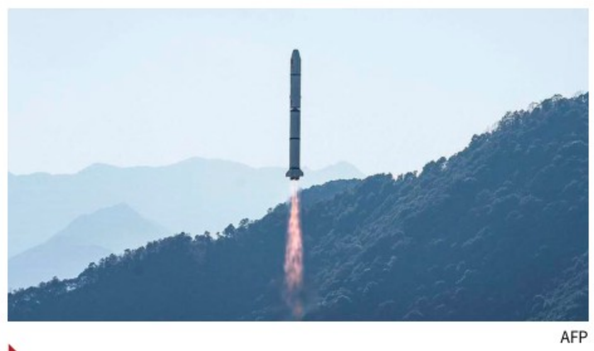
South Korea Parliament passes Bill banning dog meat trade

AP

South Korea's Parliament passed a Bill banning breeding, slaughtering and selling dogs for their meat, a traditional practice that activists have called an embarrassment for the country. Dog meat has long been a part of South Korean cuisine, and up to a million dogs were killed for the trade every year. AFP

BEIJING

China successfully launches satellite, triggering fear in Taiwan



AFP

China successfully launched its satellite into space aiming to unveil "the violent and little-known aspects of the cosmos". As Einstein Probe set off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwestern Sichuan — around 2,000 km from Taiwan's capital Taipei — it also triggered concern in the self-ruled island nation. AFP

BEIRUT

Hezbollah targets Israel base to avenge killings in Lebanon

AP

Lebanon's Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah said it targeted an Israeli command base in retaliation for the killings of one of its commanders, Wissam Tawil, and the Hamas deputy leader, Saleh al-Aruri. Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging near-daily fire across the border since the Israel-Hamas war broke out. AFP

Israel says 185 soldiers killed in war against Hamas so far

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

The Israeli Army said on Tuesday that 185 soldiers have been killed so far in its offensive against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

It said nine soldiers died in fighting on Monday, one of the deadliest days for the military since it launched a ground invasion of the Palestinian territory on October 27.

Israel vowed to crush Gaza's Hamas rulers after they carried out the deadliest attack in the country's history on October 7. It resulted in the deaths of around 1,140 people in Israel, most of them civilians. Hamas also took around 250 hostages. Israel says 132 of them remain captive.

Israel's Army has warned its war against Hamas will last throughout 2024.

Israel faces Gaza 'genocide' case by S. Africa at UN court

While the ICJ's decisions are legally binding, it has limited power to enforce them; Blinken meets with Israel PM, calls for avoiding civilian harm in Gaza where more than 23,000 have been killed

Agence France-Presse
THE HAGUE

Israel and South Africa face off at the UN's top court from Thursday, after Pretoria accused Israel of "genocidal acts" in Gaza, charges the Israelis have dismissed as "blood libel".

In an 84-page submission to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), South Africa urged judges to order Israel to "immediately suspend its military operations" in Gaza.

South Africa alleges that Israel "has engaged in, is engaging in, and risks further engaging in genocidal acts against the Palestinian people in Gaza".

The ICJ could in theory order Israel to stop its invasion but it is highly doubtful it would be obeyed.

Protracted battle: Palestinian women react following an Israeli strike at the European Hospital in Khan Younis on Tuesday. REUTERS

South Africa has filed the case against Israel because both countries have signed the UN Genocide Convention, created in 1948 as a response to the Holocaust.

Any country that has signed the convention can sue another at the ICJ if they disagree on the "interpretation, application or fulfilment" of the rules designed to prevent genocide.

Israel has angrily hit back at the accusations, with government spokesman Eylon Levy vowing to fight the South African case he described as "absurd blood libel".

"No, South Africa, it is not we who have come to perpetrate genocide, it is Hamas," Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged Israel to "avoid further civilian harm" in the besieged Palestinian territory

In a Tel Aviv meeting with Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Blinken reaffirmed U.S. "support for Israel's right to prevent the terrorist attacks of October 7 from being repeated", said State Department spokesman Matthew Miller.

But Mr. Blinken also "stressed the importance of avoiding further civilian harm", Mr. Miller said about the Hamas-run territory where more than 23,000 people have been killed in the war.

Amid boycott campaign in India, Muizzu wants China to top the list of tourist arrivals

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Even as several social media users in India continued amplifying the "#boycottMaldives" campaign online, amid recent tensions between the neighbours, President Mohamed Muizzu, currently on a five-day state visit to China, urged the Asian giant to reclaim its top spot in tourist arrivals to the island nation.

Addressing the 'Invest Maldives' Forum held in China's Fujian Province, Mr. Muizzu spoke of his government's plans to diversify the country's popular tourism sector and "offer new experiences".

"China was our number one market pre-COVID, and it is my request that we intensify efforts for China to regain this position," he said, according to a statement issued by the President's office on Tuesday morning.

In the last two years, Indians topped the Maldives's tourist arrival charts, followed by Russia and China. Official figures showed that 2,09,198 Indian tourists visited the Maldives in 2023. However, the recent campaign among many in India asking potential tourists to cancel their plans and bookings has caused concern among some in the Maldives.

Triggered by three junior Ministers' controversial public positions on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Lakshwadeep, the row could have a serious economic cost for the scenic Indian Ocean archipelago's crucial tourism industry, they fear. While the Muizzu government suspended the three deputy Ministers following their remarks, the controversy escalated with certain online users on both sides sharing hateful content attacking each other's country and leaders.

Parallel pitch: Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu speaks at the Invest Maldives Forum in Fuzhou in China on Tuesday. PTI

Industry's reaction

"The Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) strongly condemns the derogatory comments made by some Deputy Ministers on social media platforms, directed towards the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Narendra Modi as well as the people of India," the Association said in a statement in Male on Monday.

Further, it called India "a significant contributor" to the tourism industry that "greatly assisted" the island nation's recovery efforts during COVID-19, right after it reopened its borders. "Since then, India has continued to remain one of the top markets for the Maldives," the MATI said, calling for restraint in speech and action "that may have any negative impact on our good relationship".

Partnership with China

Meanwhile, Mr. Muizzu, in his address, said China remains one of "the closest allies and developmental partners of Maldives" and commended the Belt and Road initiative for delivering "significant infrastructure projects" to the Maldives, while stating that his government is keen to "explore [more] partnerships under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative".

He said the Free Trade Agreement, signed by the two countries in 2017 – it was the Maldives's first bilateral FTA with any country – would be swiftly implemented, to "boost" bilateral trade and investments, particularly by increasing the export of fish products to China.

Former PM wins Bhutan polls clouded by economic strife

Agence France-Presse
THIMPHU

Former Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's party won Bhutan's election on Tuesday, media reported, after polls dominated by economic threats challenging the Himalayan kingdom's longstanding policy of prioritising "Gross National Happiness" over growth.

Voters had to weigh the struggles facing the Buddhist-majority kingdom's younger generation, with chronic youth unemployment and a brain drain.

Both parties in the election are committed to a constitutionally enshrined philosophy of a government that measures its success by the "happiness and well-being of the people".

Mr. Tobgay's People's Democratic Party (PDP) won nearly two-thirds of seats in Parliament, The

Tshering Tobgay

Bhutanese newspaper reported, with the 58-year-old conservation advocate expected to become Premier for the second time.

Mr. Tobgay's PDP "wins the 2024 National Assembly general elections with 30 seats" while the Bhutan Tendrel Party (BTP) took the remaining 17, the paper said.

There was no immediate confirmation from the Election Commission, which is expected to release final results on Wednesday.

U.S. appeals court wary of Trump claim of immunity

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

A panel of U.S. appeals court judges appeared deeply sceptical on Tuesday of Donald Trump's claim that as a former President he should be immune from prosecution on charges he conspired to overturn the 2020 election.

The 77-year-old Trump attended the appeals court hearing held under tight security in a Washington courthouse just blocks away from the U.S. Capitol stormed by his supporters on January 6, 2021.

Talking to reporters after the hearing before a three-judge Bench, Trump warned of bedlam if his prosecution goes ahead.

He is scheduled to go on trial on March 4 on charges of conspiring to overturn the 2020 election won by Democrat Joe Biden.

'World came close to the critical 1.5 degree Celsius limit in 2023'

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

2023 was also first year with all days over one degree Celsius warmer than pre-industrial period

The year 2023 was the hottest on record, with the increase in Earth's surface temperature nearly crossing the critical threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius, EU climate monitors said.

Climate change intensified heatwaves, droughts and wildfires across the planet, and pushed the global thermometer 1.48 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial benchmark, the Copernicus Climate Change Service reported.

"It is also the first year with all days over one degree warmer than the pre-industrial period," said Samantha Burgess, deputy head of the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). "Temperatures during 2023 likely exceed those of any period in at least the last 1,00,000 years."

Nearly half the year exceeded the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit, beyond which climate impacts are more likely to become self-reinforcing and catastrophic.

But even if Earth's average surface temperature breaches 1.5 degree Celsius in 2024, as some scientists predict, it does not mean the world has failed to meet the Paris Agreement target of capping global warming under that threshold. That would occur only after several successive years above the 1.5 degree Celsius benchmark, and even then the 2015 treaty allows for the possibility of reducing Earth's temperature after a period of "overshoot".

KERALA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KINFRA)
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

E-TENDER

KINFRA invites e-tenders from experienced and technically sound contractors/firms for the work: Design, Construction, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CETP at Zone 1 area of KINFRA Petrochemical Park, Ambalamughal,Kochi.

The tender document(s), can be downloaded from the e-Government Procurement (e-GP) website (**www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**). For more details visit the web site **www.kinfra.org**.
Ph: **0484 2993885**

Place : Thiruvananthapuram
Date : 10-01-2024
Sd/-
Managing Director

TAMIL NADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU UNDERTAKING)
5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Ref.No:82/2023-24, Transportation of Dry Fly Ash from through Closed Trucks from M/s. Mettur Thermal Power Station, Mettur to Ariyalur Cement Works, Ariyalur District, T.N.
Est. Value : **Rs.6.13 Crore EMD- Rs.2,00,000/-**
Submission of tender : **Up to 3.00 P.M. on 08.02.2024**
Important Note : A pre-bid meeting will be held on **22.01.2024 at 4.00 PM** at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, AavinIllam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035. The Tender document can be downloaded from **https://tntenders.gov.in** Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR/163/TENDER/2024
GENERAL MANAGER (MARKETING)

Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport,
Paribahan Bhawan (2nd Floor), A.G. Square, Unit-II, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 9.
Phone-0674-2390355, Fax-2396885, Email: - portsniwt.od@nic.in

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE - Bid Identification No. DPIWT-21/2023-24

1.	Name of work	:	Construction of Approach Road from RD road to Passenger Jetty at Nimtala in Bhadrak District.
2.	No. of works	:	1 (One) No
3.	No. of Covers	:	Double Cover
4.	Value of works	:	Rs.1.17 Crore
5.	Bid Cost	:	Rs.10,000.00
6.	Period of Completion	:	04 (Four) Calendar Months
7.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal.	:	12.01.2024 to 29.01.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.
8.	Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	29.01.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.
9.	Date of opening of bid document (Cover-I)	:	30.01.2024 at 11.30 AM
10.	Date of transparent lottery process (If situation arises)	:	Intimation will be given through online
11.	Class of Contractor	:	"B" & "A" Class Contractor
12.	Name and address of Officer Inviting Tender (OIT)	:	Director, Ports & Inland Water Transport, Paribahan Bhawan (2nd Floor), A.G.Square, Unit-II, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin-751009, Phone-0674-2390355, Fax-2396885, e-Mail- portsnitt.od@nic.in

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place, **https//tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

JJ-54: **Director, Ports & IWT, Odisha**
OIPR-38025/11/0032/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
e-mail : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

No : 146 / **1st CORRIGENDUM** Date: 9/01/2024

In continuation to this office Bid Identification No- **CCERWCSBD Online-50/2023-24** invited vide this office Notice No. 6301 Dtd. 20.12.2023, partial modification of TCN has been made as follows:-

Sl No.	Item	Time Schedule as per original TCN	Time Schedule as per Corrigendum notice
1	Availability of Tender online for bidding	28.12.2023 at 11.00 AM to 11.01.2024 up to 5.30 Pm	**Extended up to 5.30 PM of 18.01.2024**
2	Last Date and Time of seeking tender clarification if any	10.01.2024 up to 2.00 PM	**17.01.2024 up to 2.00 PM**
3	Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid)	12.01.2024 at 11.00 AM	**19.01.2024 at 11.00 AM**
4	Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid)	To be intimated separately	**Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders**

*** **Estimated cost for the work "Package No:PM-SBD-C4" is changed to Rs.147.06 Lakhs instead of Rs.192.94 Lakhs as per TCN.**

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.

O-2164: OIPR-25182/11/0058/2324

भारत सरकार
अंतरिक्ष विभाग
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन
सतीश धवान अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार
श्रीहरिकोटा-524 124, तिरुपतिजिला (आं.प्र.)

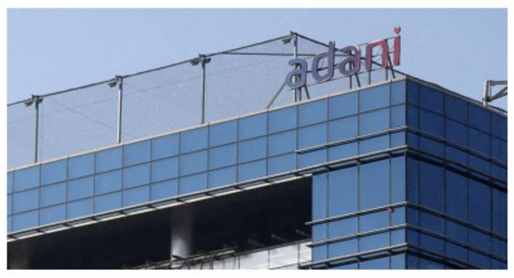
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524 124, TIRUPATI DIST. (A.P)

Dated 10.01.2024

NOTICE

Attention is drawn to **(1)Advertisement No. SDSC SHAR/RMT/02/2023 dated 26.04.2023 and Addendum dated 15.05.2023** inviting applications for filling up of various Scientific & Technical posts and **(2) Advertisement No. SDSC SHAR/RMT/04/2023 dated 04.08.2023** inviting applications for filling up of various Administrative and Paramedical posts. It is to inform that **Corrigenda** vide **No. SDSC SHAR/RMT/02/2023 dated 10.01.2024** and **No. SDSC SHAR/RMT/04/2023 dated 10.01.2024** have been published in Employment News and SDSC SHAR Website in respect of the above advertisements, indicating the revised number of vacancies in both the advertisements. All those candidates who have applied against the above advertisements are hereby advised to refer/visit latest edition of Employment News/SDSC SHAR website **(https://www.shar.gov.in/ (or) https://apps.shar.gov.in/)** for details and note the changes.

INBRIEF



Adani Ports raises ₹500 cr. via non-convertible debentures

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) raised ₹500 crore by issuing non-convertible debentures (NCDs) on a private placement basis. Billionaire Gautam Adani's firm, in a regulatory filing, said it has accepted bids aggregating to ₹500 crore for two listed bonds, with one maturing in five years and the other in 10 years. The NCDs will be listed on the wholesale debt-market segment of BSE. APSEZ is the largest port developer and operator in India. PTI

Convene full GST Council to discuss frauds: Amit Mitra

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman should call for a meeting of the full GST Council to deliberate only on the root causes of GST frauds, said Amit Mitra, Principal Chief Advisor to the Chief Minister of West Bengal. In a letter to the Finance Minister on Monday, he said the special drive against fake GST registrations started in May last year has led to the detection of 29,273 bogus firms involved in suspected input tax credit evasion of ₹44,015 crore.

Gaining share in material handling in North India: Godrej

Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd. on Tuesday said its material-handling business had made 'significant' strides in expanding its footprint and market share in North India, with a special focus on the Chandigarh region. The Chandigarh branch, responsible for covering Jammu & Kashmir, Leh & Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and parts of Haryana, has been on an 'impressive growth trajectory,' the company said, adding this branch would achieve a revenue of more than ₹50 crore in FY24.

'India seeks new textiles export markets amid weak demand'

Govt. looks for new markets for Indian textiles through free trade agreements with countries such as Australia and UAE as demand wanes in the U.S. and Europe; quality control orders aimed at stemming unregulated import of textile materials

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With demand for textiles exports turning sluggish in Europe and the U.S., India is looking for new markets through free trade agreements (FTAs) with countries such as Australia and the United Arab Emirates, Union Textiles Secretary Rachna Shah said here on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference, she said the Centre is taking steps to address the issues of lack of demand and uncontrolled imports in the textiles sector. *The Hindu* had recently published a series of reports on the problems in the sector due to lack of demand and unregulated imports.

Clothed in issues: Factors such as competitiveness and logistical costs affect exports, says Ms. Shah. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Ms. Shah said demand for Indian textiles had waned in the U.S. and European markets last year and also this year. "On imports, we are monitoring major surges," she said and added that quality control orders on textile materials would assure quality in the products imported and would curb the import of substandard products.

She added that the Centre was exploring new markets besides strengthening existing major markets for textiles. She said FTAs with the U.K. and some West Asian countries were also being negotiated, adding that the Centre's target was to achieve $100 billion in exports by the end of 2030.

Citing competitiveness, logistical costs and value chains that were spread out across the country as factors affecting exports, Ms. Shah said schemes such as PM Mitra and Production Linked Incentives (PLI) would help scale up production and address such issues.

Anxiety about food prices has likely eased since December, says Crisil

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anxiety about inflation, especially about the spikes in food prices, may have reduced among Indians through December and January, Crisil said in a research report on Tuesday, citing an unusual yardstick – Google search trends for the prices of tomatoes, onions and potatoes (TOP).

Contending that web search trends for inflation seem to move in tandem with the Reserve Bank of India's inflation expectations survey findings, Crisil economists wrote that worries about price rise may have eased since December with searches for onion and tomato prices dropping. Yet, the overall Google Trends Index value based on searches for inflation, was still above 2018-2021 levels, indicating anxiety remains high compared with that period, they added.

"Though inflation anxiety is easing, high and volatile food prices could lead to a rise in inflation anxiety, if the price pressures persist... easing inflation anxiety about TOP prices and cooling of non-food inflation has brought some relief at the end of the calendar year," the economists wrote.

However, edgy vegetable prices, elevated foodgrain inflation and weather worries were keeping inflation concerns on the boil. The repeated flare-ups were a reminder that as long as food prices remained high and volatile, they would continue to influence headline inflation and, consequently, monetary policy, they observed.

Crisil however noted that there could be an urban bias at play as rural mobile penetration trailed that of urban areas, and rural residents were less likely to look for prices online.

Zee tumbles on Sony 'plan' to call off $10-bn merger

Reuters
BENGALURU

Shares of Zee Entertainment fell almost 14% intraday on Tuesday, a day after Bloomberg News reported that Japan's Sony was planning to scrap the $10 billion merger of its India unit with the broadcaster.

Sony plans to file a termination notice before the extended January 20 deadline to close the merger over an impasse regarding who will lead the merged company, it reported.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,386	0.04
US Dollar	83.13	0.01
Brent oil	77.00	1.53

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3014.60	51.10
Adani Ports	1197.10	28.25
Apollo Hosp	5797.65	115.65
Asian Paints	3267.50	-30.90
Axis Bank	1116.55	-5.45
Bajaj Auto	7093.90	110.05
Bajaj Finserv	1682.45	-13.90
Bajaj Finance	7725.45	-10.55
Bharti Airtel	1064.50	15.45
BPCL	459.95	4.95
Britannia Ind	5122.40	-54.95
Cipla	1289.35	17.60
Coal India	385.35	4.95
Divis Lab	3984.65	50.50
Dr Reddys Lab	5749.80	-11.55
Eicher Motors	3870.45	-13.80
Grasim Ind	2064.05	-3.65
HCL Tech	1460.40	12.50
HDFC Bank	1650.50	-12.95
HDFC Life	640.90	-4.95
Hero MotoCorp	4112.50	103.00
Hindalco	575.95	-1.70
Hind Unilever	2579.75	1.50
ICICI Bank	979.75	-2.25
IndusInd Bank	1625.10	-2.00
Infosys	1529.30	6.50
ITC	464.55	-0.95
JSW Steel	821.40	-0.55
Kotak Bank	1826.65	0.55
L&T	3555.95	54.85
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5909.40	63.80
M&M	1629.90	13.75
Maruti Suzuki	10024.10	77.40
NestleIndia	2592.60	-26.70
NTPC	319.75	3.30
ONGC	216.65	-1.30
PowerGrid Corp	242.30	-0.05
Reliance Ind	2580.50	-6.85
SBI Life	1449.35	28.30
State Bank	625.40	-1.60
Sun Pharma	1324.00	18.70
TataConsumerProduct	1111.65	6.70
Tata Motors	799.80	10.70
Tata Steel	133.65	1.65
TCS	3689.90	11.60
Tech Mahindra	1235.65	6.70
Titan	3694.00	-12.05
UltraTech Cement	9899.10	-35.40
UPL	558.15	-2.75
Wipro	450.75	0.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 09

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.92	83.24
Euro	90.68	91.04
British Pound	105.51	105.92
Japanese Yen (100)	57.59	57.81
Chinese Yuan	11.58	11.63
Swiss Franc	97.50	97.89
Singapore Dollar	62.34	62.59
Canadian Dollar	62.08	62.32
Malaysian Ringitt	17.85	17.94
Australian Dollar	55.55	55.77

Source:Indian Bank

'PE realty investment slid 26% through Q3'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Foreign investments eased in the 9 months of FY24 due to global geopolitical uncertainties

Private Equity (PE) Investments in real estate declined by 26% in the first 9 months of FY24 as both foreign and domestic investors reported lower activity, according to Anarock Capital's FLUX report.

Activity from foreign investors was subdued due to global geopolitical uncertainties and a high interest rates, the firm said.

Shobhit Agarwal, CEO, Anarock Capital said, "Domestic Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) witnessed lower activity as their favoured asset class - residential real estate debt - witnessed lower demand for high-cost funds."

"Strong residential pre-sales and an accommodative stance by state-owned banks have led to reduced demand for capital from the more expensive AIFs," he added.

According to the report the average size of investment has marginally increased to $95 million in first 9 months of FY24 from $91 million a year ago.

"This is largely due to a deal in which Brookfield India Real Estate Trust REIT and Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC together acquired two commercial assets, one in Mumbai and the other in Gurugram, with a value of $1.4 billion," the firm said.

Sundaram Home to focus on small towns

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Sundaram Home Finance Ltd. (SHFL) has decided to focus on smaller towns to boost prime housing finance and affordable housing finance (AHF) in CY24 as it sees enough potential, said a top official.

"In 2024, the expansion for prime housing loans will be in the existing geographies of Tier-2 and 3 towns in South and in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat as they have enough potential for us to grow," MD D. Lakshminarayanan said during an interaction.

"Smaller towns are growing in all the geographies we are present in and the pace of growth is these towns is heartening," he said. "We are looking to continue to make investments in these Tier 2,3 and 4 towns in the South market. Our niche will be in smaller towns this year."

D. Lakshminarayanan

Stating the pace of growth of real estate in bigger markets such as Mumbai, Pune, New Delhi and Bengaluru had picked up post COVID with regard to new launches and absorption of existing units, Lakshminarayanan said there was a significant rise in sales volume of premium-category apartments.

Indian firms took on larger forex risk in 2023 banking on RBI support

Reuters
MUMBAI

Indian importers and exporters left a bigger portion of their foreign currency exposures unhedged in 2023, relying on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) holding the rupee in a narrow range.

Forward contracts purchased by importers to hedge future foreign currency payments dropped 14.5% on-year in 2023, while hedging by exporters declined 12.5%, according to Reuters' calculations based on data from Clearing Corporation of India.

Forward contracts are the most commonly used derivative instruments for hedging. "For us, the drop (in forward hedging) has been bigger, more in the vicinity of 20% to 25%," a senior FX salesperson at a private bank said.

"It's hardly a surprise that companies, especially larger ones, see value in making less use of forwards in the current environment."

A small part of the hedging via forwards has been replaced by options, said the salesperson, who declined to be named as their company policy does not allow media interactions.

India's total imports and exports between January and November 2023 slid 8% and 5%, respectively, from a year earlier.

'Starbucks plans to operate 1,000 stores in India by 2028'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Starbucks Private Ltd. has announced plans to operate 1,000 stores in India by 2028, which translates to one new store opening every three days, to expand its presence in the country. The company has also announced plans to double its employee base by that time.

The equal joint-venture between Starbucks Coffee Company and Tata Consumer Products Ltd., which opened its first store in 2012, now operates about 390 stores across 54 Indian cities, with about 4,300 employees.

Laxman Narasimhan

"India's strategic importance as one of Starbucks' fastest-growing markets globally will see Starbucks doubling down on its presence in" India, the company said in a statement.

To help achieve its target of 1,000 stores by 2028, the company would double its workforce to about 8,600 partners, enter tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and expand drive-throughs at airports, as well as its 24-hour store footprint.

'Fastest growing'

"Over the past 11 years, the India market has grown to become one of Starbucks' fastest-growing markets in the world," Laxman Narasimhan, chief executive officer, Starbucks, said in a statement.

"We are well-positioned to capture the limitless opportunities as we open one store every three days in India and further our aspiration to become truly global," he added.

'Govt. sets up panel to solve export-trade barriers'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry has set up a task force to identify and resolve trade barriers being faced by exporters in other countries, a move which would help provide greater market access to domestic goods, an official said.

The development assumes significance as often, Indian exporters suffer from barriers such as time consuming prior registration requirements and unreasonable domestic standards and rules in many countries.

KERALA HEALTH RESEARCH & WELFARE SOCIETY
(An Institution fully owned by the Government of Kerala)
Registered Office : General Hospital Campus,
Red Cross Road, Thiruvananthapuram - 695035. Ph: 0471 - 2300377

No. A3/2245/2021/KHRWS Dated: 30.12.2023

NOTICE

KHRWS invites expression of interest from NABL accredited institutions for installation and commissioning of a new Genetics & Molecular Biology Lab. Those who submit Expression of interest should be ready to set up the lab after completing the necessary procedures for installation and commissioning of the lab in tune with NABL Standards. Details are available from our official website **www.khrws.kerala.gov.in**. Interested and experienced Institutions may submit expression of interest to the MD, KHRWS,General Hospital Campus, Red Cross Road, Thiruvananthapuram before 22/01/2024.
Mail ID: **mdkhrws2018@gmail.com**

Thiruvananthapuram Sd/- Managing Director

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

Corrigendum

Please refer to the BESCOM advertisement on Tender Notification for providing Consultancy Servcies for Cyber Security published in this Newspaper on 03.01.2024. The below corrigendum may please be noted.

Sl. No	Tender enquiry no. as per paper notification dated: 03.01.2024	To be read as
1	BESCOM/2023-24/SE0077	BESCOM/2023-24/SE0090

Availability of Bid document: on or after 10.01.2024
Last date for Receipt of bids: 25.01.2024 upto 15.00 hrs.
The detailed notification can be obtained from the Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- The General Manager, DAS, BESCOM, BICC-I, 23rd Main, 17th Cross, 2nd Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru -560102.

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI
An Autonomous Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

RECRUITMENT FOR COUNSELLOR ON CONTRACT BASIS

IISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals having excellent academic record and relevant work experience for the posts of **"Counsellor – 02 Nos (01 Female & 01 Open)"** purely on contract basis. For detailed advertisement, please visit **www.iisertirupati.ac.in** and click on the link **"Careers-Administration"**.
The last date for submission of online applications is **17.00 Hrs. on January 31, 2024**.
Sd/-
Advt. No. 01/2024/IISER-T/Rect./10.01.2024 **Registrar (i/c)**

Expression of Interest (EOI) invited from Consultancy firms

Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) invites offers from experienced and competent Consultancy firms for **"Infrastructure Upgradation works at KINFRA Parks"**, with last date of submission of bid on 22/01/2024 upto 3.00 pm.
The documents will be available in KINFRA website www.kinfra.org.
Contact: 0471-2726585 / 9447459265

Place : Thiruvananthapuram **Sd/-**
Date : 10/01/2024 **Managing Director**

Government of Punjab
Building Fiscal and Institutional Resilience Project (BFAIR; P175261)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Chief Engineer (O&M), Department of Local Government (DoLG), Punjab, on behalf of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company (PMIDC), is looking to roll-out and implement a performance-based grants system for its 13 Municipal Corporations under the World Bank funded Building Fiscal and Institutional Resilience Project (BFAIR; P175261).

RFP No.	Name of the Project	Start Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
RFP No: PMIDC/BFAIR/2023-24/349	Selection of Consulting Firm for Designing and providing technical support for Pilot Performance Based Grants system (PBGS) in 13 Municipal Corporations, Punjab.	09.01.2024 from 11.00 Hrs (Server Time)	20.02.2024 till 12.00 hours (Server Time)

Notice inviting tenders which includes instructions for 'Submission of Proposals' and all other relevant information is available on https://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender / RFP notice shall be published on the above website only.

Chief Engineer (O&M)
Department of Local Government, Punjab

NA/12/21220/2023/31265

NO TENSION

Shami focusing on fitness ahead of five-Test series against England

PTI

Recovering from an ankle injury, India's Mohammed Shami said his prime focus is to achieve optimum fitness ahead of the Test series against England. "My aim is to keep myself fit as far as possible, as the next two tournaments and series are big. There is no tension about my skill," he said on the eve of Arjuna Awards ceremony.

FOOTBALL'S FRIEND

FIFA president showers praise on 'true legend' Beckenbauer

FILE PHOTO

FIFA President Gianni Infantino on Monday hailed Franz Beckenbauer as a "true legend", after the German football star died at the age of 78. "*Der Kaiser* was a great person, a friend of football and a true legend. We will never forget you dear Franz, thanks for everything," Infantino posted on Instagram.

DEMERIT POINT

ICC rates Newlands pitch as 'unsatisfactory'

PTI

ICC on Tuesday rated the Newlands pitch for the second Test between India and South Africa as "unsatisfactory" after it ended inside five sessions. "The pitch in Newlands was very difficult to bat on. The ball bounced quickly and sometimes alarmingly throughout the match," said Chris Broad, the match referee for the Test.

DOMINANT DISPLAY

Warriors prove too good for Titans, end winless streak

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengal Warriors beat Telugu Titans 46-26 to snap a four-game winless streak in the Pro Kabaddi League at the DOME by NSCI in Mumbai on Tuesday. Warriors' defender Vaibhav Garje was the star of the game as he scored a stunning nine tackle points while Titans captain Pawan Sehrawat bagged yet another Super 10.

Bowlers, Healy and Mooney help Aussies have the last laugh

The visiting team stamps its authority in all departments of the game while completing a seven-wicket victory for a 2-1 result; for the Indian women, defeating Australia in a bilateral T20I series remains an unfulfilled dream

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
NAVI MUMBAI

Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma started the evening on a promising note. Pooja Vastrakar gave more than enough reason to cheer towards the end of the game for the 43,500-plus fans who thronged the D.Y. Patil Stadium on a weekday.

Still, neither the fans nor India's women could have the last laugh as Australia yet again showcased its immense ability to strangle the opposition. Riding on an all-round bowling effort, Australia restricted India to 147 for six. And Alyssa Healy and Beth Mooney's opening partnership took the fizz out of the Indian attack.

Australia eventually romped home with eight balls and seven wickets to spare to win the third T20I and clinch the series 2-1 to end its tour of India on a happy note.

For India, defeating Australia in a bilateral T20I series remained an unfulfilled dream, with Australia stamping its authority in all departments of the game.

When Pooja accounted for Tahlia McGrath (caught at mid-off) and Ellyse Perry (lbw off an incoming delivery) off successive balls in the 16th over, India hoped to stretch the game deep. But Mooney and Phoebe Litchfield helped Australia cross the line without any fuss.

Domination continues: The Aussie women had a lot to cheer about in the final T20I. EMMANUAL YOGINI

While Australia recovered quickly after the stutter, India could not do so earlier in the night, which perhaps turned out to be the difference between the teams. Shafali and Smriti got India off the blocks quickly, having raced to 32 in the first four overs.

While Shafali's edge was smartly pouched by Healy off Megan Schutt, Smriti was looking good for a big score.

Soon after the Power-Play, Australia made a move as India lost three wickets for six runs in 12 balls. Jemimah Rodrigues (perished to a short-ball ploy), Smriti (caught on the sweep in the deep) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (played a slower one onto the stumps) succumbed to the pressure deployed by Australia's bowlers and fielders.

Despite Richa Ghosh wielding the long handle and Pooja and Amanjot Kaur chipping in with cameos at the death, India failed to cross the 150-run mark. A total of 147 was not likely to be difficult for an in-form Australia.

That's precisely what happened as Mooney completed her fifty with a crisp square-drive which proved the winning hit too.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Shafali Verma c Healy b Schutt 26 *(17b, 6x4)*, Smriti Mandhana c Gardner b Wareham 29 *(28b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Wareham b Sutherland 2 *(7b)*, Harmanpreet Kaur b Sutherland 3 *(6b)*, Richa Ghosh b Gardner 34 *(28b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Deepti Sharma c McGrath b Wareham 14 *(18b, 2x4)*, Amanjot Kaur (not out) 17 *(14b, 2x4)*, Pooja Vastrakar (not out) 7 *(2b, 1x6)*; Extras (b-4, w-11): 15; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 147.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-39 (Shafali, 4.4 overs), 2-60 (Jemimah, 7.6), 3-64 (Smriti, 8.6), 4-66 (Harmanpreet, 9.5), 5-99 (Deepti, 14.4), 6-135 (Richa, 19.1).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Schutt 4-0-36-1, Garth 4-0-31-0, Gardner 4-0-40-1, Sutherland 4-0-12-2, Wareham 4-0-24-2.

AUSTRALIA
Alyssa Healy lbw b Deepti 55 *(38b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Beth Mooney (not out) 52 *(45b, 5x4)*, Tahlia McGrath c Deepti b Pooja 20 *(15b, 4x4)*, Ellyse Perry lbw b Pooja 0 *(1b)*, Phoebe Litchfield (not out) 17 *(13b, 3x4)*; Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-2): 5; Total (for three wkts. in 18.4 overs): 149.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-85 (Healy, 9.6), 2-117 (McGrath, 15.1), 3-117 (Perry, 15.2).

INDIA BOWLING
Renuka 4-0-35-0, Titas 3-0-23-0, Shreyanka 4-0-30-0, Pooja 3.4-0-26-2,Deepti 4-0-32-1.

Toss: Australia.
PoM: Sutherland; **PoS:** Healy.
Australia won by seven wickets with eight balls remaining to clinch three-match series 2-1.

Healy became the fourth woman after India's Harmanpreet (160 games), New Zealand's Bates (152) and England's Wyatt (151) to play 150 T20Is.

Biting cold, chilly winds and dew-soaked outfield await series-opener

Freezing: Rashid and his teammates have had to endure a disconcerting climate in Mohali. PTI

AFGHANISTAN IN IND

Rakesh Rao
MOHALI

Biting cold and chilly breeze failed to deter the Afghanistan cricketers from opting for a lengthy net session at the PCA ground here on Tuesday.

No doubt, the Afghans are well equipped to deal with these conditions back home but discomfort was writ large on the faces of many players. With single-digit temperatures prevailing for the better part of 24 hours and the icy winds making matters worse, their plight was understandable.

Once the action moved from stretching and catching at the ground to bowling and batting in an enclosed 'net' area, the players appeared at ease.

Mercifully, given the itinerary of the series, the caravan will travel to Indore and Bengaluru, cities where the winter is far less severe. Unlike India, Afghanistan has warmed up for this series by expectedly scoring a 2-1 series win over host United Arab Emirates. With the T20 World Cup in June being the focus, Afghanistan is here to make the most of this opportunity and pull off a surprise.

Following its impressive showing in the recent World Cup – the stunning wins over England and Pakistan being the high points – Afghanistan has reasons to believe that it has the ammunition to do even better in the shortest format of the game.

A team with fearless batters at the top and an impressive number of all-rounders, Afghanistan's chances of winning or causing upsets are most in this format.

The enhanced self-belief and newly-gained reputation in white-ball cricket should give Afghans hope of upstaging India that has a rusty top-order.

Remember, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli did not play a single T20 match in 2023. Their last appearance was against England in the World Cup semi-finals that India lost by 10 wickets at Adelaide in November 2022.

Another factor that should help Afghanistan's confidence is the return of Rashid Khan following a lower-back surgery in November. However, since he has neither played a T20 since July 2023 nor a game following the surgery, it remains to be seen how he shapes up.

A 7 p.m. start here could well mean the onset of dew dictating the course of the innings. Given the conditions, toss could become a decisive factor. In any case, dew-soaked outfield will make life a little more difficult for the fielding team.

On Wednesday, the Indian team will have nets under lights and gauge the conditions.

President Murmu presents sports awards at a glittering ceremony

GENERAL

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's best-performing athletes and coaches were conferred with the National sports awards by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday.

The awards ceremony, usually held on the National Sports Day (August 29), was deferred because of the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Badminton star Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, who have been chosen for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, could not attend the event as the duo is currently playing in Malaysia Open Super 1000.

26 athletes and para-athletes along with coaches were conferred the Arjuna and Dronacharya Awards. Armless para-archer Sheetal Devi got the biggest round of applause as she went to receive her Award.

While the Khel Ratna comes with a cash prize of ₹25 lakh, the Arjuna and Dronacharya awards include a cash prize of ₹15 lakh.

The recipients (2023 awards):
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna: Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (badminton).

Arjuna Awards: Ojas Pravin Deotale (archery), Aditi Gopichand Swami (archery), Murali Sreeshankar (athletics), Parul Chaudhary (athletics), Mohammad Hussamuddin (boxing), R Vaishali (chess), Mohammed Shami (cricket), Anush Agarwalla (equestrian), Divyakriti Singh (equestrian dressage), Diksha Dagar (golf), Krishan Bahadur Pathak (hockey), Sushila Chanu (hockey), Pawan Kumar (kabaddi), Ritu Negi (kabaddi), Nasreen (kho-kho), Pinki (lawn bowls), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (shooting), Esha Singh (shooting), Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (squash), Ayhika Mukherjee (table tennis), Sunil Kumar (wrestling), Antim Panghal (wrestling), Naorem Roshibina Devi (wushu), Sheetal Devi (para archery), Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy (blind cricket), Prachi Yadav (para canoeing).

Dronacharya Award: Regular category: Lalit Kumar (wrestling), R.B. Ramesh (chess), Mahaveer Prasad Saini (para athletics), Shivendra Singh (hockey), Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar (mallakhamb).

Life-time category: Jaskirat Singh Grewal (golf), E. Bhaskaran E (kabaddi), Jayanta Kumar Pushilal (table tennis).

Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement: Manjusha Kanwar (badminton), Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey), Kavitha Selvaraj (kabaddi).

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy 2023: Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

Elite gathering: The award winners with President Droupadi Murmu and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur at the Rashtrapathi Bhavan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CMYK
M BG-BGE

Mehuli and Rudrankksh win mixed air rifle gold

China's Shen and Zhu duo tops the qualification round; however, the Indian stars bring their 'A' game in the summit clash to clinch the crown

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Mehuli Ghosh and Rudrankksh Patil combined to help India to a mixed air rifle gold, with a 16-10 victory over China in the Asian shooting championship in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Tuesday.

The Chinese duo of Shen Yufan and Zhu Mingshuai had topped qualification with 632.3, one point better than India, but the combination of World Champion Rudrankksh and World Championship medallist Mehuli was able to strike well in the gold medal match.

Junior air rifle shooters Isha Taksale and Umamahesh Maddineni also bagged the gold, boosting India's gold collection, following four gold medals on the opening day.

The second Indian team of Anvii Rathod and Abhinav Shaw beat one of the Indonesian teams for the bronze as well. The other Indonesian pair won an automatic bronze as the field had only five teams.

However, the Indian mixed air pistol team of Rhythm Sangwan and Arjun Singh Cheema was beaten 17-11 by Vietnam.

The main focus of the teams would be to secure Olympic quota places for the Paris Games. India has won two through Varun Tomar and Esha Singh on the opening day in air pistol. Having won all possible eight Olympic quota already in rifle, India will look to add to its Olympic quota from rapid fire pistol and sports pistol.

The results: Mixed air rifle: 1. India (Mehuli Ghosh, Rudrankksh Patil) 16 (631.3); 2. China (Shen Yufan, Zhu Mingshuai) 10 (632.3); 3. Korea 16 (630.9), 4. Singapore 12 (629.0); 3. Iran 17 (628.4), 4. Kazakhstan 13 (630.0).

Mixed air rifle juniors: 1. India (Isha Taksale, Umamahesh Maddineni) 17 (627.0); 2. China (Chu Ziqing, Pan Bowen) 11 (627.1); 3. India-2 (Anvii Rathod, Abhinav Shaw) 16 (626.6); 4. Indonesia (Masayyu Fadillah, Paskalis Saverio) 2 (618.8); 3. Indonesia-2 (621.3).

Mixed air pistol: 1. Vietnam (Thu Vinh Trinh, Quang Huy Pham) 17 (580; 2. India (Rhythm Sangwan, Arjun Singh Cheema) 11 (582); 3. Korea 16 (580); 4. Mongolia 10 (574); 3. Pakistan 16 (577); 4. Kazakhstan 8 (573).

All smiles: Mehuli and Rudrankksh with the mixed air rifle gold medals. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Getting Olympics quota a great feeling'

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

For shooter Esha Singh, it was 'mission partly accomplished' when she made the cut for the Paris Olympics after winning the women's 10m air pistol gold (243.1) in the Asian championship in Jarkarta on Monday.

"I am feeling great. I had set a goal and worked towards achieving it," said Esha in a telephonic interview from Jakarta.

Esha also combined with Rhythm Sangwan and Surbhi Rao to clinch the team gold (1736).

"The qualification was tough. And winning the final with a huge margin and getting the quota is a great feeling," said the 19-year-old, who won the gold in the 25m pistol team and silver in 25m air pistol (individual), 10m air pistol (individual) and 10m air pistol (team) in the last Asian Games.

"I plan well in advance and start my preparations. There will not be much change going into the Olympic cycle. I just want to maintain my focus and stick to the gameplan," said Esha.

She thanked Olympics gold medallist Abhinav Bhindra and coaches Ved Prakash and Ronak Pandit for guiding her to achieve excellence at the highest level.

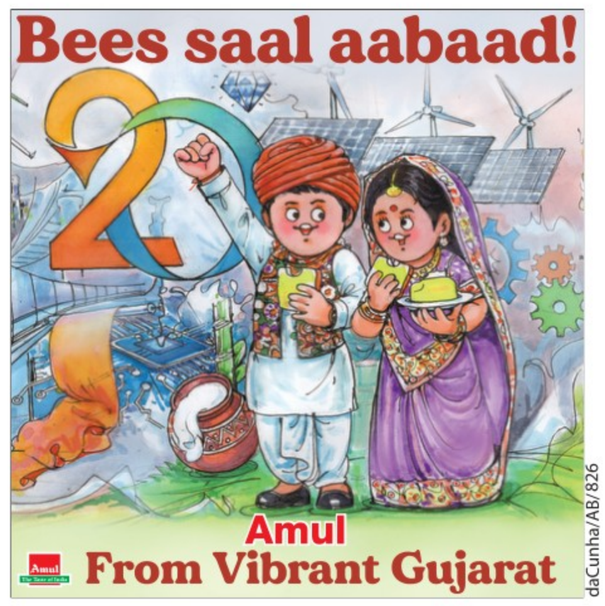
Esha with the 10m air pistol Asian championship gold. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dad's support

She also attributed her success to the "great support" of her father Sachin Singh, who was in Jakarta to see his daughter perform.

Esha said she will now focus on the kind of preparations needed to make it big in the Paris Games.

"I will try my best and schedule my training accordingly. Booking the Olympic quota means a huge burden is off my shoulders. But, it doesn't mean that I will relax. I have set my goal for the Olympics long back and will work towards achieving it."



SNAPSHOTS

Midfield action: East Bengal's Souvik tries to work his way past the Hyderabad press. BISWARANJAN ROUT

East Bengal edges Hyderabad, Bagan downs Sreenidi

BHUBANESWAR: Cleiton Silva struck twice to help East Bengal notch up a hard-fought 3-2 win against Hyderabad FC in the opening group-A match of the Kalinga Super Cup at the Kalinga Stadium on Tuesday.

Cleiton scored the first two goals for East Bengal but Hyderabad managed to equalise through Ramhlunchhunga and Nim Dorjee Tamang, who scored from a penalty.

Saul Crespo then came up with a late winner for East Bengal.

Later, the ISL champion Mohun Bagan SG downed Sreenidi Deccan FC 2-1 in the second group-A league match. Sreenidi Deccan took the lead around the half-hour mark through William de Oliviera. Jason Cummings equalised for Mohun Bagan before Armando Sadiku found the winner in the 71st minute.

The results: Group A: East Bengal FC 3 (Cleiton Silva 33, 54, Saul Crespo 80) bt Hyderabad FC 2 (Ramhlunchhunga 45, Nim Dorjee Tamang 79-pen); Mohun Bagan SG 2 (Cummings 39, Sadiku 71) bt Sreenidi Deccan FC 1 (De Oliviera 29).

Srikanth stuns Christie

KUALA LUMPUR: India's K. Srikanth progressed to the second round of Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament with a come-from-behind 12-21, 21-18, 21-16 win over World No. 5 Indonesian Jonatan Christie here on Tuesday.

The results: Men's singles: K. Srikanth bt Jonatan Christie (Ina) 12-21, 21-18, 21-16; **Doubles:** Fang-Chih Lee & Fang-Jen Lee (Tpe) bt M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila 21-16, 21-19.

Women's singles: Zhang Yi Man (Chn) bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-15, 21-15; **Doubles:** Tanisha Crasto & Ashwini Ponnappa bt Francesca Corbett & Allisson Lee (USA) bt 21-13, 21-16.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Manish breezes past Neeraj

MANDYA: Manish Ganesh breezed past Neeraj Yashpaul 6-1, 6-1 in the opening singles round of the PET ITF Mandya Open on Tuesday. In another match, Siddharth Vishwakarma took out Adil Kalyanpur 6-3, 6-1.

Hyderabad take lead

MYSURU: Left-arm spinner Nitin Sai Yadav's six for 67 helped Hyderabad gain a 13-run first innings lead over Karnataka, which was bowled out for 281, on the third day of the Col. C.K.Nayudu Trophy on Tuesday. K.V. Aneesh top-scored for Karnataka with 131 (213b, 11x4). Hyderabad was 103 for two in 33 overs in its second essay, before bad light stopped play.

The scores: Hyderabad 294 in 107.3 overs & 103/2 in 33 overs (Aman Rao 63 n.o.) vs. Karnataka 281 in 88.1 overs (K.V. Aneesh 131, Aneeshwar Gautam 80, N. Nitin Sai Yadav 6/67).

Atharv excels

BENGALURU: Atharv Deshpande put on an all-round show for President's XI against Bangalore City XI in the KSCA boys' under-14 inter-zonal tournament.

The scores: President's XI 397/8 in 90 overs (Arnav Manchale 38, Arnav Anil 70, J. Sukruth 84, Atharv Deshpande 102 n.o., Teja Thokala 49 n.o., Om Agarwalla 3/43) and 126/8 in 32 overs (J. Sukruth 30, Atharv Deshpande 31, Krishna 27) drew with Bangalore City XI 176 in 62.2 overs (Thushar Khande 32, Krishna 3/40, Atharv Deshpande 3/27).

Vice President's XI 228 in 72 overs (Aadrith 66, Tanshh Krishna 38, Ashrith Reddy 63, Sai Samarth 3/21) and 134/5 decl. in 36.4 overs (Tanshh Krishna 36 n.o., Ashrith Reddy 33) bt Tumkur Zone 114 in 34.1 overs (K.S. Rohith 43 n.o.) and 92 in 31.3 overs (Rohith Reddy 27, Suvik Gill 5/21).

Shivamogga Zone 112 in 53.3 overs (Jnana Prabhu 35, Abrar Kadri 3/16, Abhinav Sharma 4/7) and 87/3 in 36 overs (G. Jishnu 35 n.o., Abhinav Sharma 3/30) drew with Dharwad Zone 220/9 in 90 overs (Joy James 121, Uzair Shabbir 3/44, D. Bhargav 3/31).

Raichur Zone 259 in 64 overs (Ahmed Ali 36, Hasnain Nihan 86, Mohammed Shamsheer 66, Chetan Rangraj 29 n.o., Gagan 3/50, Mayank Sharma 3/19) and 126/5 in 40 overs (Rahul Goud 45, Vishnuvardhan Pukale 40) drew with Mangalore Zone 373 in 90 overs (S.N. Avaneesha 127, Mayank Sharma 31, J.C. Karkera 42, Tonse Shiek 26, Kshitij Shetty 34, Saqib Arab 4/86).

Mysore Zone 337/3 in 83 overs (Chavanth Gowda 104, Y. Tharun 31, Jateen Dinesh 110, K.M. Dheemanth 60 n.o.) and 158/5 in 36 overs (Chavanth Gowda 68, H.G. Preetham 41) drew with Bangalore Zone 183 in 56.4 overs (Syaamantak Anirudh 63, R. Kuber 34, Samarth Kulakarni 3/34, Litheesh Sumukh 3/24).

Combined City XI 165 in 47 overs (M. Rahul 30, M. Rohith 29, Aaryansinh Chavda 55, Narasimha 3/38, Harish Bam 3/39) and 223/1 in 34 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 74, Nitish Arya 134 n.o.) drew with Secretary's XI 237 in 65.5 overs (A. Vishnu 54, Rithvik Kulasekar 48, Harish Bam 35, Aaryansinh Chavda 4/71) and 137/7 in 31 overs (A. Vishnu 36, Aaryansinh Chavda 3/66, Prayag Bijesh 3/48).

Quick win: Manish had it easy against Neeraj in the opening round of the Mandya Open on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Krithin stars for Huttons

B. Krithin (125) took Huttons CC past Young Cricketers (2) in the KSCA Group I, Division V league.

The scores: Huttons CC 399/8 in 50 overs (Nouman Asad 60, B. Krithin 125, Rahman Anas 34, S.R. Rakshith 78, Huzaifa Bagi 66, S. Tejas 3/69) bt Young Cricketers (2) 166 in 28.4 overs (R. Chinmai 55, Aalapkrishna Manikandan 27, Ronak Chawla 3/11, Chirag Gowda 3/44).

Indiranagar Cricketers 235 in 40 overs (D.R. Ganesh 27, Yashas Kumar 39, C.E. Mani 46, N. Kumara 3/37, Kiran Kumar 3/30) bt National Cricketers 113 in 26.4 overs (G.R. Mrunal 40, R. Prakash 3/30, Deepak Gowda 5/33).

Jaidur Cricketers 306 in 48.2 overs (K. Somashekar 26, M.S. Sapthagiri 39, Jibin John 77, Dhruv Naik 61, Prathap 38, Prashanth Shetty 5/73) bt United Cricketers 107 in 26.3 overs (Prathap 3/21, Rohit Antaal 3/16).

Bangalore Indian CC 210 in 44 overs (Ameet Yadav 46, Satyam Goudar 31, Shenoy Konchady 64, Afzal Khan 4/27, L. Kaushik 4/33) bt Blaze CC 97 in 27.3 overs (Arjun Devaiah 35 n.o., Pavan Kalyan 29, Mohammed Fhazal 3/24, Afreed Ahmed 3/33).

Yuvaka Sangha CC 128 in 39.5 overs (Ajay Kurpad 29 n.o., K. Muniraju 5/29) lost to Super CC 126 for no loss in 19.3 overs (S. Ananth 50 n.o., Yashas Vihaan 58 n.o.).

YMCA CC (2) 97 in 21.4 overs (Sreeram Sreedharan 3/22, Prajwal Jayachandra 6/40) lost to Rajajinagar Colts CA 99/1 in 9 overs (Nirmal Tejaswi 58 n.o.).

Rodrigues's brace does it for Rising Star

R. Rodrigues scored a brace to help Rising Star HC 'A' record a 2-1 win over BCYA 'A' in the KSHA-BHA 'A' division hockey league here on Tuesday.

The results: Bombers HC 2 (S. Sushil 3, Suresh Babu 9) bt Delhi PS (East) 1 (Shahanlal Shafas 32); Rising Star HC 'A' 2 (R. Rodrigues 17, 40) bt BCYA 'A' 1 (Karthik Reddy 35).

INBRIEF

Quick Guns thrash Giants to top the group stage

Chennai Quick Guns crushed Gujarat Giants 38-21 to top the group stage of Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 in Cuttack on Tuesday. Earlier, Odisha Juggernauts ended its group stage campaign with a 34-23 win over Mumbai Khiladis.

Anirudh and Vijay Sundar duo bows out

Alternate entrants Anirudh Chandrasekar and Vijay Sundar Prashanth were beaten 4-6, 5-7 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals by Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul of France in the $739,945 ATP tennis tournament in Auckland.

FIH signs a four-year deal with Viacom18

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has signed a four-year media rights agreement with Viacom18. This agreement includes all FIH events, except the FIH Nations Cup. Matches will be available on JioCinema and Network Sports18.

C.M. Varma and B.M. Varma Memorial Million on Jan. 12

The C.M. Varma and B.M. Varma Memorial Million for maiden 3-y-olds, sponsored by Cheri Sport Pvt. Ltd. and Bangalore Turf Club Limited and to be run on January 12 (Friday), will offer a purse of ₹10 lakh with the winner taking home a little over ₹4 lakh and a trophy. C.M. Varma was a racing enthusiast, while B.M. Varma was a rider and a polo expert who had served as the chairman and senior steward of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club.

Champion boxer Jaipal provisionally suspended

National super heavyweight champion boxer Jaipal Singh has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for anabolic androgenic steroids and hormone and metabolic modulators at the National championships , a Boxing Federation of India (BFI) source told *The Hindu*.

LIVE TELECAST

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards

Sport, like art, need not make sense; it can be enjoyed still

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

There was a screen between me and the action in Cape Town. The television screen. Sometimes this can be an advantage, the presentation of the game from different angles. Often it is a disadvantage (even when the commentary is turned off) because, in effect, you are watching the game through someone else's eyes.

The 642-ball Test there must rate as one of the strangest played. It has inspired many theories and many might-have-beens from experts, players and viewers.

It was riveting in the way natural phenomenon like a volcano eruption is (when there are no casualties). It was a reminder that so much of what we take as the gospel truth regarding cause-and-effect is based on uncertainties.

Was it good for Test cricket? It was certainly better than a five-day draw eked out by defensive play and unimaginative captaincy. Sometimes the individual controlled an outcome, at other times the individual succumbed.

This mixture made it impossible to pin down motives and rationales in our usual glib fashion. So you sat back and enjoyed it untroubled by the compulsion to explain or even understand everything; too much knowledge can occasionally extinguish the pleasure.

Fact is, there is only one honest answer to the question: What happened? It is, "I don't know." Anything else sounds contrived. A reporter or commentator making that admission might lose his job, so he deals in certainties, in straight lines leading inevitably from one incident to the next.

The safest course would be to blame the pitch. South Africa were dismissed for 55, and India lost six wickets without a run being scored. These are Exhibits 'A' and 'B'. Fast bowlers took 32 of the 33 wickets to fall, that's Exhibit 'C'. Exhibit 'D' is what didn't happen: Two spinners with over 400 wickets between them were not required to bowl. Yet - Exhibit 'E' - a batsman made an attacking century (Aidan Markham 106 off 103 balls) when no one else in his team crossed 20 in either innings.

The pitch wasn't the greatest. The idea of a dodgy pitch spreads quickly within a team - it becomes a self-fulfilling reality.

Philosophical question

You can put down the below-par performances to technical deficiencies in batting, yet you come to the philosophical question: Can we really know anything for certain? Also, does everything have to make sense?

Do we rely too much on convenient and easily-digested 'technical' explanations in sport when a toothache or a fight with a spouse might be the cause for a specific course of action? Not that such was the case here, but a match like this makes us examine our studied responses.

Sport, like art, need not make sense. It need not be susceptible to straightforward explanations. Therein lies its beauty.

When I was starting out as a reporter, Mohinder Amarnath played two memorable away series against the world's best fast bowlers. He made 584 runs in Pakistan and 598 in the West Indies, with five centuries in 11 Tests. This against Imran Khan, Sarfraz Nawaz, Andy Roberts, Malcolm Marshall, Michael Holding, Joel Garner.

An authority on the game then explained Amarnath's technique. "For him the danger ball was the yorker," he said, "he was on the lookout for it. Anything else he swung his bat at and he got away with it."

It was one of those theories that balanced on the edge of meaning; only an expert could say something that made no sense to anybody else. Later I asked Amarnath about this. I am not sure whether he said "bunkum" or "nonsense", but that was the gist of his response.

Occam's Razor ("it is pointless to do with more explanations what can be done with fewer") usually works in sport because the unexpected is built into it. In some ways sport reflects the uncertainties of life itself, whether physical or biological. If that weren't the case, it would be the most boring of activities.

It is difficult to find an overarching explanation for the Cape Town Test that includes South Africa's first innings, India's slide as well as Markham's century. And we should be grateful for that. Pigeon-holing ruins the appreciation of sport.